

CANADA'S

WEEKLY NEWSMAGAZINE

# Macleans

NOVEMBER 10, 1997

# UNDER SIEGE

**Ontario  
teachers  
challenge the  
Mike Harris  
revolution**



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See **Journal of Polymer Science: Part A: Polymer Chemistry**, Vol. 32, No. 1, 1994, pp. 1-10. © 1994 John Wiley & Sons, Inc.

## 12 Under siege

**Ontario Premier Mike Harris's Tories** face down the "largest teachers' strike in Canadian history." But underlying the bitter dispute is a question polarizing the province: Has the provincial Conservatives' "Common Sense Revolution" gone too far, too fast?



## 28

### Scandal and suicide

Abused as a child, Martin Krutz helped expose the Maple Leaf Gardens sex scandal. Last week, the tormented 35-year-old took his own life.



## 62 Best of the season

From sensual stories to narcissistic themes, from fantasy to reality-based narratives, new books for kids and young adults provide a joyful harvest. A parent's guide to gonzoart and uncensored love

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## Protecting your money

While rappers on global stock markets prompted banker hearts to flee, prudent investors sat tight—and even bought more shares.

# From The Editor

## A struggle for power



One day last week, parents hiding neighborhood kids to a day care centre in Toronto drove by their local elementary school, rolled down the window and shouted their support for striking teachers. The next day, some kids, now dressed in a different costume, "Go back to work." Driven by dusk street by street, the strike of Ontario's 126,000 teachers was hitting home—and polar-

izing communities across the province. More than two million elementary and high-school students—twice the total population of Saskatchewan—were affected. There were angry words, no punches changed, confrontations on picket lines—but also touching signs of the special relationship between teachers and their students. At St. Benedict's Catholic Secondary School in Cambridge, Ont., and at East Lanark Secondary School in Watford, near London, teachers went back to classrooms to help grieving students cope after two students were killed in car accidents.

The same sense of binding did not face the fight between the government and the teachers' unions. Both sides were in court on the weekend, with the government seeking an injunction to force teachers back to work. Whatever the outcome of that action, it was clear that this was no ordinary labor dispute. The very tenets of Premier Mike Harris's Tory government were under siege, with the teachers only the latest antagonists. As Anthony Wilton Smith and Mary Joerges write in one of this week's cover stories: "In the 28 months since his government was elected, the premier has taken on almost every established group, overthrowing the

province's multilateral foundation at a pace that has unsettled all but the most ardent supporters." For his part, Harris shows no signs of backing down in the face of the teachers' apogee. As he told Maclean's in a late-week interview: "They can't stop change."

The teachers are determined to hit back the harsh terms of that 200 and there is no doubt that the struggle is about power. For example, the government wants the authority to set class sizes and to exclude principals and vice-principals from union membership. The dispute has also seen the Harris government's commitment to make major spending cuts across the board, to produce and produce a balanced budget. So far, 10 per cent of Ontario's 210 hospitals have been earmarked for closing, the number of municipalities has shrunk by 200 (to 600) and the number of school boards has been cut in half. Now, the government wants to slice more than \$500 million from the province's \$16-billion education bill.

What is emerging is a strikingly different view of what Ontario, once a laboratory for education reform, will be in the next millennium. The teachers

wield great power—and through their \$10-billion pension fund a vast power to shape the province's future. From now on, the teachers know that they, too, are simply cannon fodder in the face of an advancing opponent—the Harris Revolutionary Army.

Robert Lewis



Company day care centre: the strike of Ontario's 126,000 teachers was hitting home

## Newsroom Notes:

### The charities controversy

An article in the Sept. 15 issue, "The charity industry," generated a number of assertions by organizations that Maclean's hurt their fund-raising efforts by questioning the use of funds. The heart of the controversy was a so-called ranking of 20 charities that listed total revenues from donations to grants—and the percentages spent on charitable programs.

The statistics, provided by Reverse Canada, were disclosed before publication and were again verified after the controversy erupted. But an internal Maclean's review—which included discussions with several charities—indicated that the chart was incomplete. It was not a ranking, but a random sampling of charities at various sizes. And by focusing on the money spent only on charitable programs, the chart did not take account of other funds—reported separately to Reverse Canada—that went to good works, including research. In some cases, that had the effect of understating the percentage of funds going to charitable causes. Maclean's has apologized to the

Multiple Sclerosis Society of Canada for incorrectly listing the level of its charitable activity and has printed letters from several other organizations and concerned individuals. Senior editors and reporters hosted a meeting of representative charitable groups in mid-October to discuss the article and the growing issue of accountability for funds. The charities, considering that accounting for funds was widely, last month named former NDP leader Ed Broadbent to conduct a national study on accountability and governance. In an upcoming issue, Maclean's plans to return to this subject as part of an expanded look at the work of Canadian charities.



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## Food for thought

As a nutritionist, I found the articles interesting and reasonably balanced ("Eating right," Cover, Oct. 23). Your articles raise it as the prime culprit for obesity, and for good reason. But for many frustrated dieters, watching their scales and eating low fat/low-fat food, fat intake reduction has not solved their problem. That is because their high-carbohydrate diets are sending signals to "store, store, store" in the body through the high and continuous release of insulin need of to deal with the constant carbohydrate intake. You can't lose weight when you tell your body to turn on its main storage signal hormone. A high-fibre, whole-grain type of diet would help tremendously. But we can explain to the masses why their low-fat diets are making them fat and diabetic.

Ron Winstanley  
Allendale, N.C.

I greatly appreciated your cover stories on "eating right." Cover stories certainly are getting crowded and tired of all the conflicting information. Please don't add to that confusion by perpetuating the myth regarding "complete protein" as it relates to vegetarians.

## LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Should be addressed to:  
Maclean's Magazine Letters  
777 Bay St., Toronto, Ont. M5W 1A7  
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E-mail: letters@maclean.ca  
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larsen eating. Your point that "no simple vegetable, grain or other plant food provides complete protein" is incorrect. Each plant source contains all the essential amino acids necessary for "complete protein." The measure of how closely the protein source (whether plant or animal) matches it is called by many a brand name: chemical score. Thus, a food with a chemical score of 50, only 50 per cent of the proteins would be available for complete use, so you would have to eat twice as much to get your required protein. Most animal proteins are in the 70 to 80 range. Most vegetable proteins are in the range between 55 and 65 and this percentage can be increased if you combine different sources.

Therefore, even a plant source with a very low score can still provide enough complete protein if you eat enough. As another user to say—don't watch what's on your plate.

Nancy Price  
Edmonton, B.C.

As a livestock nutritionist, I read the articles hoping the subject would include accuracy and balance. On both counts you did very well. In future, you might want to include more details on the subject of whole milk and lower rates of breast cancer. Research journals are now naming the protein of our paginated linoleic acid as the responsible agent found primarily in dairy products and not in a large commensal level.

David Spinks  
Aurora, Ont.

Where did you get the idea that "cheeses such as Blue and Parmesan" are outlawed in the United States? Certainly when I was shopping in Manhattan in June they were available and, perhaps more to the point, very much cheaper than in Canada, where the price of all cheese is maintained at an artificially high level because of our milk marketing cartel.

Anthony Reynolds  
Greenwood, Ont.

## Dubious heroines

Having worked hard just to achieve executive secretary status in the good old days, I was delighted to read that more women are joining the ranks of top women CEOs ("Top women CEOs in Canada," Cover, Oct. 28). It was interesting to read of their ambition, goals and struggle to achieve their highly sought-after status. But in the end, they are just women CEOs.

## A warrior's gift

I have just read your article on Charlie Martin ("The loss of a Canadian war hero," Backstage, Oct. 27) and was deeply touched. This man represents all that is good about the Canadian Armed Forces and its legacy. As a teenager, I enjoyed reading the glorious stories of our veterans of the Very and Pineschendale. While those stories are fascinating, and those people who were there did an extraordinary thing, it is the stories like that of Charlie Martin that bring home the true sacrifice. I would like to thank him and all of our veterans, both peacetime and wartime, for what they have done for me and my family. Every time I watch my two young sons at play, I realize the tremendous gift that has been given to us.

Bob West,  
St. Catharines, Ont.

er, Oct. 28). It was interesting to read of their ambition, goals and struggle to achieve their highly sought-after status. But in the end, they are just women CEOs. I just justified in challenging the right of firms like CEO Jay Gilson's Endeavour Inc. to brag of 1995 profits of \$80 million. However, a car industry justly these kind of profits? Are they doing it by shortchanging employees in the high-turnover field, or depriving consumers of food supplies that barely cover transit, drugs and health supplies?

Merrill Shale  
Thornhill, Ont.

As briefly acknowledged in your story, Roy of Oak Mines CEO Perry Wade is American by birth, holding from Dallas, Tex., an immigration to Canada until 1979. While Roy Oak has all its properties in Canada and did start in Canada, the company has moved its corporate headquarters to Kirkland, Wash. One has to wonder why one of Canada's top women CEOs felt compelled to move a successful and profitable Canadian company to the United States, in a more favorable business climate per capita the answer?

Mike Reynolds  
Denver, Ont.

## Computer time

The article "Millennium mayhem" (Backstage, Oct. 27) perpetuates a misunderstanding. Since the first Macintosh computer was produced in 1976, Mac users have had no worries about the impending year 2000 crisis, at that point as unknown issue. For the record, even the earliest Mac

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# Anthony Wilson-Smith

## The Mike Harris school of politics

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One of the traditions of politics, given its partisan nature, is that every politician can tell at least two stories. Consider this: on a January night in 1996 in Islamabad, Pakistan, most of the 500 or so waiting members of the Team Canada trade expedition, just arrived from India, went to bed early. That was an unfortunate decision for dozens of the Maple Leaf Club, the Canadian Embassy social club that is one of the few places in largely Muslim Pakistan where foreigners can find a beer. Embassy employees and their families had been, one said, "nearly insane" for a week that preceded snow from Lahore and fresh loaves. But of the eight Canadian first ministers, including Jean Chrétien and seven premiers, only Ontario's Mike Harris came. In slacks, gold shirt and watchmaker, he drank beer and chatted with the locals till close to midnight—finally leaving to chants of "Mike, Mike."

For supporters—who by then included most of Pakistan's Canadian contingent—that was vintage "Mike": the down-homey guy who always goes the extra kilometre to please. Or, perhaps, as one disapproving Atlantic premier remarked, "some people will do anything for a beer." Either way, it reflected the extraordinarily extreme reactions provoked by a premier who appears to go out of his way to appear ordinary. The reason, as friends and opponents have learned, is that Harris is anything but an ordinary politician—as he demonstrated again last week in his standoff with Ontario teachers.

For one, Harris is far more complex than his reputation permits suggest. Perhaps the cliché in Canadian politics must in need of a statute of adverse limitation is the inevitable description of Harris as any profile as a "lancer gold ore." A negative course operator as he only 30s, that period is long since eclipsed by a career extending more than two decades as an elected legislator. The common perception of Harris is that his wit is often distracted by specifics in major detail. Similarly, he is often portrayed as a cunning, self-sufficient politician who, wherever, everything plays out in to survive—often at all costs, whenever possible. "The difference between us and the Ontario Tories," one adviser to Jean Chrétien says disparagingly, "is that we believe in the stability of government to do positive things."

But those who know Harris well dispute those judgments. In an excellent new book titled *Provoked: Inside the Mike Harris Revolution*, which gives a richly detailed insider's account of the Tories' first two years in power, author and journalist John Doherty writes: "Harris was, by nature, a very pragmatic conservative, but his young advisers. He was willing to accept state intervention to address social or any other inquiry, but only if it could be proved

the intervention worked." Either in his career, he lacked the late Larry Grossman when the latter, a left-leaning Red Tory, successfully ran for the leadership.

Consultant Graham Murray, whose firm regularly assesses the Harris government, calls Harris "a remarkably determined man. One of his staff once said to me that he is the least amiable person [he] had ever dealt with, and he clearly is the person who calls the fundamental shots in this government." In fact, in an hour-long interview with Murray's last week, Harris coolly discussed the intricacies and specifics of economic programs.

In two ways, Harris's career can be compared with that of Chrétien, both men have made victims of their small-town roots and self-declared lack of polish, and both benefit from being under-estimated. (The art of appearing laid-back and neighborly is an attribute mastered by many of Canada's most successful soapbox politicians, including Manitoba's Gary Filmon, Alberta's Ralph Klein and New Brunswick's recently retired Frank McKenna.) Despite that, their relationship is chilly. Chrétien disapproves of the manner in which Harris has reduced government's role in Ontario—despite the fact he has taken neither, lesser steps nationally. And he resents the fact that Ontario, under Harris, has stepped back from its longstanding role as a conciliatory force in national unity talks. In turn, Harris considers the federal government to be overly preoccupied with that issue. And he barely conceals his disdain for Ottawa's difficult reduction success, which he considers largely the result of increased tax revenues in Ontario's booming economy. In his bid for re-election in a vote that is likely still two years away, Harris will face several obstacles. One is Ontario's remarkably volatile electorate: the shifting among Liberal, New Democrat, and Conservative governments in the last three elections makes even Quebec and British Columbia politics look stable. Another challenge is to hold the uneasy alliance between traditional, middle-aged Tories and the more aggressively right-wing Harris brand. (One measure is the mix of Indian and non-Indian in governing: Terry Carleton stood at an upcoming book titled *Reynold Good: A Traditional Conservative Goodbye to Neoliberalism* by longtime Tory and occasional adviser Hugh Segal.) One possible scenario: in the early days of Harris rule, opponents and opponents frequently called their counterparts in Klein's then-budget-cutting Alberta government for advice. Now, Klein, with budget balance, is swinging his party back to the political centre. Will Harris, once the central promises of his Coalition Some Revolution have been kept, take another page from Alberta's electoral misadventure and do the same? Only time will really tell if his political savvy would diminish the possibility.







Canada

# Harris under siege

## Teachers lead a labor uprising in Ontario

BY MARY JANIGAN and ANTHONY WILSON-SMITH

COVER

**I**nside his second-floor corner office at Queen's Park one afternoon last week, it was business as usual for Ontario Premier Mike Harris. Through the window came the raucous cries of several hundred striking teachers on the front lawn below, protesting against his Conservative government's recent education legislation. Beyond his office door, a beleaguered receptionist politely fielded calls expressing similar sentiments. But the object of these demonstrations appeared, apart from a lingering cold, coolly implacable and untroubled by the fuss. "More calls from teachers aggressively demanding aspersions," Harris joked as he adhered visitors into his office. At the end of a week dominated by the longest teachers' strike in Canadian history, as the two parties tussled daily for the upper hand before the courts and the tele-

vision cameras, the eventual outcome was one of few results that Harris would prefer with any certainty. "I hope they are content to the tail end of that, because we don't respond to it," Harris said with a nod to the demonstrators outside. "They can't stop change. The status quo is not an option." Maybe not. But the outcry was a sign that the labor side—which kept 2.1 million students and 128,000 teachers out of school—was damaged both the government and the teachers and is bound to leave a bitter legacy. With picket-line passions giving to misjudge the government went to court at week's end seeking an injunction to force the teachers back to work. The issue was not whether the strike was illegal—which it clearly was—but whether it was causing such "irreparable harm" as to justify a back-to-work order. After 25 hours of often-complex arguments, Justice James MacPherson



son said he would rule on Monday—but he urged the two sides to reopen talks and said he would delay a decision if an agreement seemed possible in the absence of a negotiated settlement. MacPherson warned, "someone is going to win completely and someone is going to lose completely."

Even as the drama unfolded on the picket lines and in court, a key fact of current Ontario politics asserted itself. No matter what Ontario may say about their premier—and those opinions are often extreme—no one can accuse Harris of ducking a fight. In the 20 months since his government won office, the premier has taken on almost every established group, overhauling the province's institutional foundation in a pace civil has unsettled all but his most ardent supporters. "That," says Liberal Leader Dalton McGuinty, "is a premier who is not really content unless he is tussling with someone." Now, the leader of Canada's most populous province leads tussles on the highest and most important political battle of his tenure.

For both short- and long-term reasons, the stakes are enormous. The immediate concern last week was the effect that a prolonged strike would have on students. Then there was the fate of the teachers, who faced either the prospect of staying off the job or admission to a series of changes they say would radically alter their workplace and their bargaining powers (page 18). What ever their decision, teachers were likely to remain high. As Eileen Lennon, president of the Ontario Teachers' Federation, vowed: "As long as Bill 160 is on the table, teachers will be fighting it."

On the government side, the stakes may be even higher. Harris is determined to pare an additional \$800 million to \$950 million from the education system's \$14-billion price tag. And as a former teacher and school board trustee, the premier is already resolved to overhaul a system that he depicts as inefficient, outdated—and too decentralized to ensure curriculum quality, smaller classes or reduce the taxpayer money. The current legislation would remove school boards' rights to negotiate key contract conditions, such as teachers' preparation time. It would also allow the province to use individuals who do not have teaching certificates for certain classes, to require classroom time and to increase the number of instructional days in the school year. The teachers argue that the government wants to increase their work load because it is determined to save money—at the expense of educational quality.

But the conflict is far more than a traditional tussle for position between the government and one of its employee groups. It is, in fact, the watershed for a party that is already slipping its strategy for an election that is at least two years away. Education reform is the centerpiece of the Harris' conservative and extremely controversial overhaul of almost every provincial institution. If that key reform fails, the Harris government may rapidly be changed around as a capricious manager. And that could be due to its re-election prospects. "For

PHOTO BY AP/WIDEWORLD

COURTESY OF THE HARRIS GOVERNMENT

bliss. Harris to be re-elected, he needs to show that his party can be in an agent of change, but also message change effectively," says policy John Wright, senior vice president of the Angus Reid Group Inc. "His party needs a message."

One indication of the gravity that Harris attaches to the news was his cautious shuffle shortly before the strike, when the premier released controversial education minister John Snobelen with Dave Johnson—widely regarded as one of his most trusted and able lieutenants. More important, Harris has turned the education battle into a personal crusade. In a TV advertisement that aired nightly, and in a performance made to television a few days later, he addressed two weeks ago, the premier deliberately took on the teachers, depicting them as a self-interested group that opposes any change in the status quo. "I understand that the job of the teachers' union is to put their membership first," he said in his speech, "but ours is to put Ontario's kids first."

If his appeal was not working, it was because the Times made an extraordinary, controversial gaffe that severely undercut their credibility. Initially, the government insisted that there was no specific target for education spending cuts, bailing that any further education was probably unnecessary. But two weeks ago, a leaked draft copy of a "performance contract" for Yvonne Lacey, the premier's deputy minister of education, revealed that she had been given the goal of cutting \$600 million from the province's elementary and secondary schools in 1998-1999. Under pressure, Harris was forced to concede that at least \$600 million in cuts were under consideration. Transportation Minister Mark McLean said that there is more than enough money in the system, the problem lies in the fact that it is not spent to improve the quality of classroom education. "Many of our provinces spending significantly fewer dollars are getting better results. Their kids are learning more," he said.

That stand has deeply undermined the government's case. Prior to the strike, pollster Wright discovered that about 70 per cent of Ontarians wanted school reform.

Fifteen per cent, meanwhile, opposed a potential vote—while 42 per cent favored it. Last week, however, when Wright sampled within Metropolitan Toronto, he discovered that those positions were completely reversed. "This thing has come all the way for the government over one clear issue: their admission that they are going to cut," says Wright. "While the government was found 1 in the court of public opinion, it is clear that the teachers have taken Round 2. The focus moved from supporting or opposing the strike to the much deeper issue of the manner in which the education system and who will deliver it." Or, as New Democratic Party leader Howard Hampton told McLean in a "Target those stereotypes it high altitude talk. For the Times, money is everything."

The story is that the government was comfortably positioned to

take down the teachers before it began to talk of serious savings—it only because of the unusual situation. Prior to the strike, the Ontario Teachers' Federation, which is not a representative of the five teachers' unions—demanded that the government withdraw its drastic attack on its legislation. It was, of course, no Wright, "to portray the teachers as anti-student or anti-state that people could not very much." Threats by other unions—such as the Canadian Union of Public Employees—to strike in solidarity were then likely to further damage their public image. 60 per cent of respondents agreed with the assertion that "unions have too much power."

Was the Times' headline that the government was taking the teachers down a little behind the government and the unions, rather than against individual teachers? "It's an issue versus the government," says Liberal member Michael O'Rourke. "That's the government versus the teachers, teachers vs. Teachers are real people—and governments and unions are institutions. Voters will always sympathize with real people over institutions."

The situation has become so complex that even smart Times readers who think the government has finally bitten off more than it can chew in a single mandate. The changes set in motion by the Ontario government have been enormous: the entire individual labor of the province has been torn apart and exhibited back together. Over the next two years, 26 out of 330 hospitals, including 11 of 44 in Toronto, will close. The number of municipalities is shrinking from 825 to about 60—even the City of Toronto is about to be swallowed into a new entity. The number of school boards is slated to dwindle to 60 from 129.

Those structural changes have been followed by an overhaul of the province's fiscal base. In a changing transfer of responsibilities and cash, the province will receive half of the education property tax from municipal tax bills on Jan. 1, 1999—about \$2.5 billion. And it has claimed the right to set that tax rate in future, removing tax-setting powers from the local boards, for whom the new income tax will be added with the tax for social housing, local public health services, ambulance costs and 30 per cent of the cost of all welfare. (They can pick up one-fifth of the cost of only certain categories of benefits.)

And those are merely some of the highlights of the Times' institutional revolution—one that has resulted in very worthy new measures. How will the province remain the continued quality of health care in hospitals close? How will the new, larger school boards—and the unions with which they bargain—adjust to their changed and much-complicated circumstances? Will municipalities be able to provide the same quality of service—as their responsibilities change—for the same level of taxes? The government has inflicted enormous upheaval on practically every

important sector of Ontario society," notes political columnist Graham Smith, editor of the influential *Amide Queen's Post* newspaper. "The major parties of manipulation have been torn out of Ontario's political landscape."

In the beginning, that was all part of the government's plan. Implementing sweeping change in as many areas as possible—as fast as possible. Elected in June, 1998, as the Common Sense Revolution platform, the new government cut welfare payments by 30 per cent, watered down or scrapped provisions ranging from labor laws and employment security to the ability to sue provincial authorities, introduced the first phases of a planned 30-per cent reduction in personal income taxes, and passed most programs and public-sector employment. Its method of operation was disconcerting to many. "The way John Tory, author of *Proven Land*, And the *Mike Harris Revolution*, notes, the premier's staff coached that "an entrenched interest will accept substantial change as a means to avoid catastrophic change. Therefore, to obtain substantial change, therefore, this approach of starting from an extreme position would become one of the government's favorite tactics."

The day-to-day strategy usually worked—in so long as the government was implementing the basic plan of its electoral policy, that more change led to another, the approach allowed extreme stands provoked angry opposition at a time when the government did not understand the full ramifications of its new proposals. As a result, positions polarized. "We are not going to reform the public sector to become a viable North American region state," says Queen's university economist Tom Courchene. "But these are process issues here that have really bothered a lot of people. Maybe this is the only way to get that change, or it all at once. Maybe they are just implicitly giving them a choice of one or the other."

While wages shot that Harris is keeping promises he didn't even make. In his head the Common Sense Revolution was always heading in that direction. In short, he has done what he said he would do. He has cut the budget by 30 per cent and 1999—and exceeded the deficit in 2000-2001. The fiscal promises made the premier's ideological determination to pass back government. Meridian, in fact, has learned that he is rethinking the arguments of more moderate Tory supporters who maintain that revenues are so high that there is no need to make further cuts. There is a major provision in the Common Sense Revolution that takes about 10 per cent off the top of the budget for the next year. And that government has actually had the courage to begin with deepened, fundamental change in the way that it delivers services.

But the greatest reason for change resulted from a basic list of

provocative life: the government could pass legislation but other institutions can get around the need to implement it. The Times have called for work for welfare, but in this case, the government can't, but cities have been slow to introduce the necessary job-training or make-work schemes. That realization really hit home, however, in November 1998, when the provincial government shifted institutional grants, including cuts of \$440 million to educational grants. Although hospitals and municipalities absorbed the hit, 70 per cent of the school boards simply raised taxes to compensate for lost revenue.

The roots of the current educational impasse lie in that decision. The Harris government concluded that the boards could never restrain the demands of the powerful unions, they would target small boards in constant financial peril, and it was unable to ensure people's progress on a provincewide basis, and using common-sense and benefits, in response, the boards would simply raise taxes and increase teacher-pupil ratios. Bill 160 reverses the Harris government's decision, and the Harris government. "We need to get savings out of what we use as a poverty-bait have no more options," the premier said, "but they weren't prepared to be part of the solution." Johnson, his education minister, noted that he was looking for suggestions from the schools, but "all we have heard is a desire to yank out clauses in the bill."

Tory private polls now indicate, however, that such initiatives—and the resulting demonstrations—have shaken the public's confidence in the government. If Harris does not proceed with initiatives, he risks the education sector the last two years of his mandate might be smoother if he wants to survive the next election. The state of the provincial economy may help at least the overall level of government spending has not declined. In Harris once promised, revenues are becoming. Private forecasts predict annual growth rates as high as seven per cent, and the budget may actually balance one year early, in 1999-2000. The premier has transferred his former principal secretary, David Ludwig, to the government's Ontario Jobs and Investment Board to ensure that his 1996 election promise of 750,000 new private-sector jobs is kept. (So far, only 589,000 have been created—but that includes 230,000 in the past seven months.)

In such circumstances, the premier may be able to argue that all of the pain has been worth the gain. As columnist Murray notes: "We are moving towards the end of this institution. The government views it that this is going to be a breakthrough. And that is clearly very positive by the government in terms of its efforts to get Ontario ready for the next century by clearing away the old ways of the last century." The premier can only hope that by the time he makes that argument, he can be heard above the din outside his office.



As long as Bill 160 is on the table, teachers will be fighting it

—Lance



Johnson

# 'This system is broken'

Mike Harris  
battles Ontario's  
status quo

*Ontario Premier Mike Harris's Conservative government has launched a full-scale reform of the province's education system, calling for standardized report cards, a government curriculum and the right to determine the amount of time that teachers spend in the classroom. He has also called for additional unspecified spending cuts of \$500 million. Such changes have provoked fierce debate. Last week, as demonstrators staged anti-government protests outside his Queen's Park office, Harris spoke to Maclean's National Affairs Columnist Anthony Wilson-Smith and Contributing Editor Mary Joannas. Excerpts:*



The premier 'we're giving good government'

**Maclean's:** How important is the education issue for your government?

**Harris:** This one is very key. We're one of our way to making the changes that investors look for—except in education. Quality of education, the quality of our workforce, the quality of the training programs, has to be the best in the world. It can't be mediocre. And certainly all the evidence that we've had to make judgments that we're not keeping up. We're not terrible—but it's not excellent.

**Maclean's:** Why not the recent test savings from our future and cutting back into the education system?

**Harris:** Had we inherited balanced books, we might have had the luxury of not having to find savings at the same time as improving quality. What we have found is that throwing more money into the education system has not improved the quality. This system is broken. It's not a matter of money. The presence of all these different partners—the school boards, the unions—has led to far too much bureaucracy, far too much money not being spent in the classroom, far too much money wasted—and that's what we're really trying to change.

It certainly shows me that another billion dollars is what you need to have the best education system in the world, we'll find it. We'll make savings in other areas. That nobody has and lack of money is the problem. And I don't believe it is. I could commit to reinvent, but then I might not be reinventing something else and then I'm playing the major game of measuring success by how many dollars you spend.

**Maclean's:** The Common Sense Revolution has provoked many demonstrations. How do you react?

**Harris:** That seems to be the status of the job in Ontario at change is being made that makes something more from you, the accepted wisdom has been to scream and yell and blow whistles. Maybe that worked in the past. But we are 100-per-cent convinced the status quo couldn't remain. The Common Sense Revolution put in very specific figures on education cuts—and it said those

should not affect the classroom. In our experience, these cuts have affected the classroom because the current system has not allowed us to get at the waste very well. There is no question that very strong provincial unions negotiating with very weak little local boards has led to this situation. The boards had begged us to help them. The teachers' unions have fought the new testing, they fought standardization, they fought the new curriculum changes. None of us are immune from the test of results. Those that say this is about power, there is some truth to that.

**Maclean's:** You have said that current report cards don't make sense.

**Harris:** I can remember going to see my son's Grade 2 teacher—and the only reason I knew how my kid was doing is that I knew what to ask. You get very little idea how your kid is doing relative to how a similar kid would be doing in another jurisdiction. So standardize the report card. While the unions fight this, many teachers welcome the new standardized report card, the new curriculum, even the testing.

**Maclean's:** Did you foresee such broad authorization change before you came to power?

**Harris:** Before we were elected, we were criticized for saying things like "No leader of government will be outwitted at Queen's Park." But we knew a lot of things were wrong. It was probably true. It was education, lower politicians—all these things were in the Common Sense Revolution. But the complexity of it was not. We made a fundamental decision that there are a number of these things that all need to be fixed and they're interdependent and often linked. But it is time a lot of change in a short period of time. There's some uncertainty. Each change, though, in complementarity to the other. And risk, at the end of the day, in the next couple of years, will work very, very well.

**Maclean's:** Can you get re-elected?

**Harris:** Fifty-five to 60 per cent of the people are saying "We like what you're doing, we think you're on the right track, we understand it needs to be done, please get it done." Some might say, "Take your time, make sure you're getting it right, don't make a mistake here, we understand this is tricky, make sure that what you're replacing it with is better." And we want to do this. So if there are any unintended consequences in anything, we'll deal with that. The intended consequences are better service at less cost to the taxpayers and a balanced budget, and growth in the private sector. All the intended consequences are coming true.

**Maclean's:** What do you tell voters now?

**Harris:** A lot of our opponents are trying to create fears, trying to mislead you, trying to upset you. Believe, things are getting better. Your job is more secure today than it was two years ago. A job for your children is more secure today and it will get even better next year and even better the year after that. We believe that we're giving good government. And I think that good government will be good politics come the next election. □

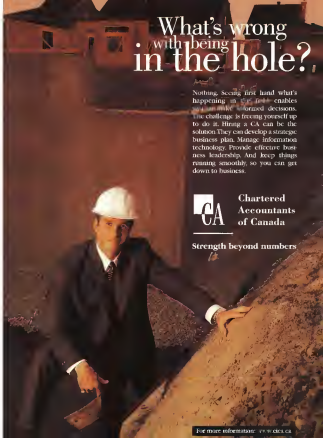
# What's wrong with being in the hole?

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# Going to the wall

## A power struggle hits two million Ontario children

BY D'ARCY JENISH

**T**he *Apex Pickering* senior prevee Raiders were working on breakout drills—three slick passes from a defenceman, to a winger and then the centreman, in order to launch an offensive attack. For the young hockey players, practicing at a suburban arena east of Toronto one evening last week, conducting the breakout was as simple

as adding one plus two. The build-down parents sitting in the stands were more concerned, however, with the lessons their boys weren't receiving due to a provincewide teachers' strike that put school on ice for 2.1 million children. "They should be fired," snarled one male teacher—"they" being Ontario's public elementary and secondary teachers. "There are a lot of good teachers who understand the system needs to change," cried Richard Wildman, an executive with a major truck company. "But a lot think they are untouchable." As a tense week unfolded the debate about the dispute that had shut down public education resounded across the province, street by street, neighbourhood by neighbourhood. At the centre of the storm: Bill 160, a controversial piece of legislation that aims to place control of Ontario's \$14-billion public education system firmly in the hands of the provincial government. "I'm for the teachers, 100 per cent," said Susan McDowell, an Ajax mother of two teenage children, despite the fact that she had been laid off from her education job at a local high school due to the dispute. "When you work with teachers, you know they don't have as easy jobs."

The first Ontario-wide teachers' strike in more than two decades was a classic power struggle between a stubborn, reform-minded government and 235,000 teachers who also refused to budge. The result was a week of noisy demonstrations, cruddy editorials and heated exchanges between the principal antagonists: Premier Mike Harris's Progressive Conservative government and the province's five powerful teachers' unions. The two sides could not even agree who to call the dispute, let alone negotiate a settlement. To the government, it was an "illegal strike," plain and simple. To the union, it was a legitimate "political protest" against Bill 160, which, if passed, would make drastic changes, including increasing the number of school days and cutting preparation time for high school teachers.

Given the emotions generated by the bill, there were understandable shows of support for the teachers, demonstrations of their actions, and picket-line confrontations. Some parents marched with the teachers, or brought them coffee and cookies. Passing motorists looked to signal their approval while others showed disapproval, or used hand gestures to convey their opinions. And teachers who crossed the lines got a chilly reception. "This school

is supposed to be open," English teacher Lena Bethune shouted at colleagues who blocked her way outside Pickering High School in Ajax one morning. "Go home, Lena," a fellow teacher snarled. "You're one of a hundred." Retired Bethune: "That's untrue. A lot of teachers don't want to be on a picket line."

In the bill's current form, it would also allow the use of non-certified teachers in guidance offices, and art and music classes—although late last week Education Minister Dave Johnson said he

performance contract of deputy education minister Vesna Lacey, leaked to the media in mid-October. Among Lacey's list of duties for the coming fiscal year: reversing \$957 million from the coffers of public education. That, said union leaders, would only compound the problem caused by the earlier cuts. In response, Finance Minister Ernie Eves held a press conference at which he argued that spending on education has actually increased by \$269 million over the past two years—even though the province cut its transfers to school boards by \$400 million in November, 1995—because the boards had simply pulled up their heels.

Throughout the week, the government accused teachers of being more concerned with maintaining their perks than creating quality schools. In news conferences, Education Minister Johnson produced charts and bar graphs showing that Ontario high-school teachers spend less time in the classroom—34 hours per day—than their counterparts almost anywhere in the country. And in scathing TV spots, Harris, a former teacher, asked: "What is our plan to reform education could possibly justify breaking the law?" The government, he said, had a simple request: "Asking teachers

spend a little more time on their feet, but I would think that would be entirely in line with the motto of the Ontario Teachers' Association, 'You'd Macdonald.' "This is just a protest against the courts of Ontario."

The sound and the fury in the province, say many observers, is simply a more macabre version of debates over public education that have been unfolding across the country. To varying degrees, several provinces have tried to take greater control of their school systems, and reduce administrative costs, often as part of a larger goal of downsizing public deficits. British Columbia, Alberta, Nova Scotia and Prince Edward Island have all drastically reduced the number of school boards. And, in fact, Ontario passed legislation just last spring reducing the number of its boards, effective Jan. 1, to 66 from 129.

In 1994, the Alberta government of Premier Ralph Klein took the collection of education taxes out of the hands of local municipalities, and began funding schools provincially through per capita student grants. It also cut teachers' salaries by 5.5 per cent. Although most teachers have since recovered the lost income, but

Calgary teachers are still trying to recoup that loss, and since August have been protesting with a work-to-rule campaign—refusing extra-curricular activities, arriving just a half-hour before class, and leaving 30 minutes after the last bell.

In many provinces, the move to more centralized control has been accompanied by legislation requiring so-called parent advisory councils, locally elected bodies that meet regularly with teachers and administrators. New Brunswick has made the most dramatic moves in that direction, eliminating traditional boards altogether and replacing them with advisory councils at every school. They in turn send representatives to 18 district councils as well as two parent-led provincial boards of education—one English, one French—that advise the education minister on a broad array of issues.

Meanwhile, the education ministries of all four western provinces, as well as Quebec and New Brunswick, have introduced standardized, provincewide testing at a variety of grade levels. In both Alberta and New Brunswick, senior high-school students write year-end exams in a range of subjects, worth between 30 per cent and 50 per cent of their final marks. Gary Grube, New Brunswick's director of evaluation for English schools, says teachers initially resisted testing because it presented them from telling their own standards. "That," he adds, "tests have become part of our educational culture."

By comparison, the Harris government seems to be making up for lost time by introducing a raft of massive changes in a comparatively short time frame. Last spring, the ministry conducted its first provincewide achievement tests of grades 3 and 6 students and next year plans to introduce similar tests in grades 9 and 11. And that past summer, then-Education Minister John Snellman—who was replaced by Johnson in a cabinet reshuffle on Oct. 16—unveiled a new elementary school curriculum that contains eleven and a half standards beginning in Grade 1.

While teachers have done little to protest those changes, Bill 160 has been the focus of fierce resistance. And considering its breadth



would change the wording to allow such professionals only to "complement" teachers. As well, the bill would give the minister broad new powers to open and close schools, and determine the composition of district school boards in some cases.

Teachers argue that the reforms would lead to massive cuts in education spending, and the elimination of up to 10,000 teaching positions—a figure that Johnson pegged at 7,500. One 30-second TV ad from the Ontario Teachers' Federation warns: "This government has already cut a billion dollars out of education. Now it plans to cut another billion." To support that charge, teachers pointed to the

to spend a little more time with their students."

Even as it struggled to win in the court of public opinion, the government was making moves to force an end to the dispute. On the weekend, government lawyers asked before Justice MacPherson, an Ontario Court general division judge, in downtown Toronto, to grant an injunction that would force the teachers back to their classrooms. MacPherson directed several brief comments to words government lawyers, suggesting he was not sympathetic to their arguments that the strike was causing "irreparable harm" to the province. Union leaders had refused to say how they would re-

...and scope, it is hardly surprising. Among other things, the proposed new law gives the government the authority to set class sizes, establish independent review, initiated by teachers' unions and school boards. As well, it establishes in law a reduction in the number of annual professional development days to five from nine, and permits the government to set preparation time for secondary school teachers by day, half, in 50 minutes a day— a move that also would reduce the number of teachers required, and in a move that infuriated union leaders, Johnson said at week's end that he intends to bring his principals and vice-principals from joining teachers' unions—a move that Ontario Teachers' Federation president Edna Lemmon described as "vicious and punitive."

The bill's critics say, however, there are far bigger issues at stake than teachers' working conditions. Most important, they object to the fact that Bill 160 proposes to place enormous regulatory powers in the hands of the education minister and the provincial cabinet. The result, they argue, will be an unacceptable centralization of control, and the virtual elimination of community influence over local schools. "They have got a problem in there that gives Queen's Park the authority to close any school in the province at any time," notes Lewis. "By using any regulations, the cabinet can override legislation."

Lynn Peterson, president of the Ontario Public School Boards Association, adds that the bill contains on pages of regulations given to the minister uncontradicted regulatory powers over the new district boards. "They can take the majority of one board—employers, parents and teachers—and transfer them to another board," notes Peterson. "They can dissolve boards in the future without so much as a discussion in public."

Perhaps in many parts of the province, particularly those outside the Toronto area, also fear that local concerns will be ignored

Calgary demonstration: a battle for control of public education



about what will be cut."

Many parents in smaller remote communities share similar fears. "If the boards are not going to have any control, where do I go if I have a problem?" asks Beverly Rinn, a mother of three school-age children in Nola, Ont., 55 km west of Thunder Bay. "I talked to a guy from the ministry one day who thought Rinn was a 15-minute drive from Thunder Bay. It was a good five-hour drive."

Whatever the faults of Bill 160, many observers were so struck last week that the current system is not working either. Graham Oprea, a professor of education at Toronto's York University who helped coordinate international math and science tests written in the spring of 1995, notes that Ontario students performed far below the national average. "These results," he says, "should give anyone in Ontario cause for concern." Furthermore, results from the province's first set of achievement tests, released last week, showed half of the province's Grade 8 students performing below the basic level in math, and 73 per cent of the Grade 6 students scoring basic or sub-standard results.

As the defenders and opponents of Bill 160 continued their debates last week, the strike was preventing many Ontarians with more immediate concerns. Some large employers, such as the Toronto law firm McMillan Black and several branches of the Royal Bank of Canada, set up temporary day care facilities for their children. Many other parents were simply forced to show up at work with children in tow. In a successful effort to keep about 65 high school students busy each day, Ontario-based Mobil Corp., a manufacturer of high-tech equipment, offered remote writing and job-training seminars.

By week's end, it was clear the province would survive the disruption—even to the complex mines it relied continued to operate

convinced for years. "In these situations, there are always three sides to the story," said Ayn's Susan McDowell. "Ours, mine and the truth." With the two sides in the dispute continuing their deluge of charges and counter-charges, Ontario residents could be excused for wishing a quick end to the "political protest" that had shut down their system of public education.

However likely, the strike has been mandated by the teachers who voted overwhelmingly to withdraw their services. It is always the schoolchildren who are the most affected by violations of private contractual obligations. Each morning, they say, by Ontario teachers presents a poor example for Ontario schoolchildren.

A teacher I know hated the strike, can't afford it, but hates the government more. She thinks the union has done a poor job of representing its side. She is troubled by the weight of government advertising, with its inflated, ongoing misrepresentations. She is concerned one of its purposes is to destroy the union. She senses the public are against the teachers. "They raise their 'deliberate'—because they do not understand what is being done by the government to the schools, the teachers and the children."

There is more here, in this heated confrontation over Bill 160, than simply an "Oggy" strike. Call it an act of civil disobedience, an intervention larger than a labor dispute and the more revealing for its

# Renegade revolutionaries

BY DALTON CAMP

What we really fight, in the effort to understand what is happening in Ontario, is that these events are all the result of the revolution. The *Common Sense Revolution*, remember? And while its innocuous description represents something of an oxymoron, it is surprising to find so many who are now bemused or perplexed by its definition. Further, that a true revolution would center on the success of the Progressive Conservative party merely confirms that vote of self-interest often appears in reimagining doctrine.

The provincial government of Ontario is of Tory lineage but unknown parentage. It has been the first Tory party to promise not to reform, but revolution. Reading its manifesto, there is also the promise of miracles—tax cuts, spending cuts, "workforce and learning," guaranteed increased funding for school classrooms, no cuts in health-care spending.

There were many reasons the 1995 provincial election, credibility was obviously not one of them. However, revolutions are not carried out by skeptics or doubters, but by the fervent, fervid and committed, and by those who find in their argument something to satisfy personal anger, personal outrage and impatient, paranoid. "Estimates of wealth fraud," the Tory manifesto simply proclaimed, "range from a few million to hundreds of millions of dollars." Such is the hyperbole of the denouement. A Tory minister, perhaps in Toronto, told me, "I believe the election that I am party would win, in part because its campaign whether rhetoric had been as of better cover for a concealed attack on immigrants. He was not proud of it."

Results say Ontario held steady, as I write, I can look down upon a storm of school children demonstrating before the local offices of the government of Ontario. The morning sun makes a fine day for picketing. The strikers seem in good shape. An onlooker would not think these people—who actually look like teachers—are lawbreakers. They strike, on the media tirelessly report, is illegal!

However likely, the strike has been mandated by the teachers who voted overwhelmingly to withdraw their services. It is always the schoolchildren who are the most affected by violations of private contractual obligations. Each morning, they say, by Ontario teachers presents a poor example for Ontario schoolchildren.

A teacher I know hated the strike, can't afford it, but hates the government more. She thinks the union has done a poor job of representing its side. She is troubled by the weight of government advertising, with its inflated, ongoing misrepresentations. She is concerned one of its purposes is to destroy the union. She senses the public are against the teachers. "They raise their 'deliberate'—because they do not understand what is being done by the government to the schools, the teachers and the children."

There is more here, in this heated confrontation over Bill 160, than simply an "Oggy" strike. Call it an act of civil disobedience, an intervention larger than a labor dispute and the more revealing for its

broader meaning. Ontario has become a province polarized by deepening divisions—in its politics, between employers and employees, and between the comfortable and the discomfited. There is a growing disconnect and a widening chasm of disbelief, suspicion and rage. Revolutions are seldom pleasant. Still, it is hard to be sure any of this is happening in good, conservative Ontario.

Can we believe what we see? First, a governmental of seemingly average man—a former minister of education who boasted he had none—who comprises a cabinet headed and headed by political disciples of Ayn Rand, by devout affiliations and by followers of Preston Manning. All of these were mark men, but now we determined to improve upon the quality of education in the public school system by removing upwards of \$2 billion from its estimates.

Clearly, this is a government of nostalgia and a revolution in the name of a remembered past. So that, in educational reform, there is the vision of the good teacher whose certification has been hard-earned at North Bay Teachers College, which graduated Premier Mike Harris, then, the extended vision of males or of duty classrooms filled with flower children and Andy Hardy and the five property of solid middle-class, two-parent, two-car families.

But take another look: see what the teachers see, which has driven them to the picket lines? They see Ontario becoming a dysfunctional province. Ontario, of all places.

In today's schools, Beverly Rinn is but one of many minorities. There are physically impaired children and children with learning disabilities. There are dysfunctional children

from dysfunctional homes, missing out children from dysfunctional families in dysfunctional countries. About 100,000 children, undernourished children, and disabled, violent children, all of whom have never been so much pressure placed upon the teacher, so much direct, real responsibility and so much governmental interference and hostility.

The Harris government has its solution: take a billion dollars out of the education budget, have more people for less who are not teachers, micro-manage the system from Queen's Park, let school budgets determine classroom size, legislate the teachers to their knees.

Should we laugh or cry?

The sick, being longer waiting lines, are less a problem. They beat themselves, or wait out their delays, or die. In the location of poverty, squalor and neglect and human misery amazingly breed more of the same. The cycle is certain, the most uncomfortable and eternal. Ontario is rapidly developing a poverty culture, the formula is written in Bill 160. But it may also contain the writing on the wall for this peculiar repressive government that calls itself progressive conservative. All the signs are there.

Dalton Camp is an author, political columnist and frequent commentator on radio and television.

## MAKING CONTACT

Actual number of teaching days

Alberta	200
Manitoba	200
Quebec	200
Saskatchewan	197
Prince Edward Island	196
Canada	195
New Brunswick	195
New Scotia	195
British Columbia	194
Ontario	188
Newfoundland	185

## THE COST OF LEARNING

Average spending per student, 1995-1997

Quebec	\$7,052
British Columbia	\$6,880
Ontario	\$6,649
Manitoba	\$6,620
Canada	\$6,493
New Brunswick	\$6,356
Alberta	\$6,349
Saskatchewan	\$6,347
New Scotia	\$6,266
Prince Edward Island	\$5,138
Newfoundland	\$5,138

With ALTHA ARAMONSON and FAYOR OUYEY in Toronto and DALTON CAMP in Calgary

# Keeping secrets

The Mountie who led the Airbus investigation quits

Quiet and self-contained, Fraser Figezowald never fit the macho stereotype of a top RCMP investigator. The slight, balding Mountie's idea of a relaxing good time is going to sit at a snack bar to spend the morning sipping from a gourmet wine. Friends describe the married father of two as deeply religious—a man who likes to hunker down with the Bible late in the evening, a middle-class Ottawa suburbanite crowded with so many RCMP officers that it is known as "Sermon Heights." They also say nothing mattered as much to him as his reputation as a meticulous, respected investigator. All that made last week's sudden end to Figezowald's 27-year RCMP career so sad and surprising—and out of character.

Technically, Figezowald, 45, is retiring from the Mounties, where he worked in the corporate crime section, to accept a position with BNCCI Consulting Inc. But the move to a private Ottawa security firm is far more than a midlife career change. Figezowald's resignation came just five days before he was to face a disciplinary hearing over accusations that he leaked confidential information to a journalist about the force's probe into allegations that former prime minister Brian Mulroney was involved in kickbacks in the 1980s sale of Airbus jets to the Canada Development Corp. for the Airbus. The investigation case just five days before he was to face a disciplinary hearing over accusations that he leaked confidential information to a journalist about the force's probe into allegations that former prime minister Brian Mulroney was involved in kickbacks in the 1980s sale of Airbus jets to the Canada Development Corp. for the Airbus.

The confidential agreement—whether Figezowald saw the force, will comment on it—less the staff sergeant, who had maintained his innocence, cut with a standard promise that RCMP sources estimate to be in the \$34,000-a-year range. And with the deal concluded on the eve of a judge's ruling that could have opened the proceedings to the public, it allowed the RCMP and the Liberal government to avoid a potentially embarrassing hearing that might have revealed how the Mounties came to be charged.



Figezowald, no hearing, dropped charges and an eleven-hour deal

ing Mulroney in the first place.

All Figezowald would say, in a brief press release, was that he had been "misquoted" and wanted to put the culture episode behind him. But the agreement disappointed some of his fellow RCMP officers, who had raised \$30,000 to cover Figezowald's court costs. "We feel betrayed," declared Sgt. Serge Chaves, who organized the defense fund (the proceeds will be returned). "We thought Fraser was going to fight." So did the Liberal government's political opponents, who fear last week's trial agreement is one closed for the Airbus saga. "This is Somalia all over again," snarled Reform party justice critic Jack Ramsay, referring to the truncated inquiry into the behavior of Canadian troops in the Horn of Africa. "The Liberals have managed to bury the whole thing."

Predictably, the Christian government sneered at such suggestions. Solicitor General Andy Scott, the minister responsible for the RCMP, said everything about Figezowald's resignation had been handled by the back, "with no political interference whatsoever." And Health Minister Allan

Rock, who in his previous portfolio as justice minister sat at the centre of the affair, expressed regret that the trial had been cancelled. "I'm disappointed that this ended without all the facts being on the table," Rock said. "I think the Canadian people are entitled to know the facts."

But Figezowald's deal means those facts may remain buried forever. It may never be known if the RCMP staff sergeant was leaking details of the investigation—or whether the government was just looking for a way to avoid facing Mulroney in court. Nor will Mulroney's own theory about the case—that the Liberals conspired with the RCMP to go after their old political foe—be tested. "For anyone with an understanding of how the highest levels of government work, it is impossible to believe that a highly RCMP sergeant could have tipped someone off that," says public relations consultant Luc Larocque, who acted as Mulroney's spokesman throughout the Airbus affair.

Figezowald, who was the lead RCMP investigator in the Airbus probe, has reportedly denied being the source of any leaks. Earlier internal RCMP investigations, meanwhile, sources say, drew much the same conclusion, finding that there was insufficient evidence to proceed with any charges against Figezowald.

Even so, on April 23, just days before the federal election campaign began, RCMP assistant commissioner Raymond Morneau announced that he believed there was enough evidence to proceed with a formal hearing. Such hearings are normally held in secret; the RCMP is the last remaining major police force in the country that conducts its disciplinary hearings entirely behind closed doors. But Southern News petitioned the Ontario Court General Division to open the proceedings. Had that action been successful, the hearing might have caused the Liberals to lose a political grip. Figezowald's lawyer, Donald Haynes, had planned to call in long-time politicians—including Mulroney—as well as senior RCMP officers and lawyers involved in the Mulroney case. "Alan Rock has got to be the happiest man in town," said a high-ranking Ottawa insider. Instead, the deal ensures that Figezowald, a cop known for his integrity, will always wear the Airbus stain. "Fraser" became a close friend and fellow Mountie, "never wanted to go out there,"

JOHN DEMONT in Ottawa

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# Campus confidential

A bungled sexual harassment policy still plagues Simon Fraser

BY CHRIS WOOD

11200 has not quite been an open haven for diversity, B.C.'s Simon Fraser University, neither has it been one of the 10-year-old school's better seasons. Not even close. For months, the news coming from SFU's hallways was that nothing to do with scholarship, and everything to do with sex and scandal. At first, it seemed that a popular swim coach had sexually harassed an attractive female student. SFU fired the offending coach. But then reporters turned up evidence that it was she who had obsessively courted him. After weeks of criticism, red-faced administrators were forced to rehire the coach. Finally, in mid-September, the university's board of directors installed education professor Jack Blaney as president. The third executive to occupy the office in less than six months, Blaney moved quickly to restore confidence. He ordered a privacy review of SFU's sexual harassment policy and has tried to refocus public attention on the university's strengths. "The academic fundamentals are still there," he insisted.

But neither academics merit nor the latest change at the top have quelled questions about how Simon Fraser, and other B.C. colleges and universities, handle allegations of sexual misconduct. On Oct. 24, Blaney made the extraordinary admission that Simon Fraser failed to follow its own rules for dealing with sexual harassment complaints on at least 11 occasions between 1995 and 1998. Disclosures continued last week, with the acknowledgment that harassment officials failed to keep proper records during the same period.

Other institutions have also been beset by trouble. In September, a labor arbitrator ordered Okanagan University College to rehire an art instructor the school had fired after two former girlfriends complained about him to administrators. The University of British Columbia and the University of Victoria have both weathered storms over accusations of allowing a "toxic climate" towards women in their political science departments. By last week, it was all evidently be-

coming too much for B.C. Education Minister Paul Ramsey. He told Maclean's that he will press the province's 28 postsecondary institutions to launch "a review of harassment policies and procedures across the whole system, including colleges and institutions," who he plans to talk to their principals at a meeting this month. "Obviously," Ramsey added, "there have been severe flaws in some of the policies and some of the application of the policies."

On Burnaby Mountain, Blaney laughs at a task force until the beginning of December to find and fix any flaws in Simon Fraser's policy. But he concedes that any change will come too late to prevent further damage to Simon Fraser's once sterling reputation. "We started the semester with the reality and the perception of being one of Canada's best universities," Blaney laments. "After the summer, the perception was badly tarnished."

In fact, warning bells began to sound over Simon Fraser's policy as sexual harassment a half-year ago. In the fall of 1996, complaints that SFU harassment co-ordinator Patricia

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## CANADA FOCUS B.C.

O'Hagan was not handling cases impartially, rejected SFU president John Stubbs have on medical leave. Shey criticized a review of O'Hagan's performance. By the new year, she was on leave of absence. On April 1, the university ended her contract as a volunteer designated with her lawyers. Still, Stubbs continued to rely on at least one report prepared under O'Hagan's direction—with results that would prove devastating for both himself and his university.

On May 22, Stubbs fired swim coach Lisa Donnelly for violating Simon Fraser's nine-year-old policy on sexual harassment. But Donnelly fought back with evidence—including suggestive photographs—levelled against her. Shey alleged victim, student Rachel Marsden, had in fact stayed with her months before she filed a harassment complaint against her. The beleaguered university president acknowledged that he had known about, but disregarded, Donnelly's evidence. Then, Stubbs went on leave. In an open letter to July to the university's 34,000 students, faculty and staff, Stubbs revealed that he was suffering from depression, and hinted that it was related to widespread public criticism of his handling of the Donnelly-Marsden case.

In September, shortly after he took over the day-to-day administration of the university's affairs, Blaney commissioned a task force to take over a review of SFU's harassment policy that had been lacking forward without a conclusion since 1994. Blaney ordered the group to get a new policy ready for adoption by the end of the year. But before it could do so, the task force turned up 900 more evidence of the duress in Simon Fraser's harassment office. Soon after starting work, the committee Blaney created that O'Hagan and Stubbs had followed the university's existing harassment policy, in place since 1988, for several years.

That policy requires the president, in consultation with campus groups, to recruit a pool of volunteers to serve as panels for harassment complaint hearings. The volunteers are supposed to elect a chairman who selects people from the same pool to hear individual cases. According to Blaney, none of that was done, then shortly after the time Stubbs took over as president in 1989 and some time earlier this year. Instead, Blaney said, records show that O'Hagan hand-picked individuals from outside the volunteer pool for Stubbs as harassment panels.

The departure from policy, he added, raised questions about the fairness of decisions in 11 cases heard between 1988 and 1992—including the Donnelly-Marsden case.

Last week, university officials admitted that some time in 1993 the harassment office also created a pool of volunteers to handle many complaints. Blaney clearly hopes to turn the corner on the long-running series of embarrassments. But that may be more easily said than done. For one thing, Blaney's disclosure that the university

## The school's reputation has been tarnished



Blaney, an administrator that SFU needed its own procedures

secretly found its own procedures opened the door to a string of potential lawsuits. During possible appeals, says Donnelly's Vancouver lawyer, Lorry Russell, will be the suspicion that some of SFU's hand-picked panels were less than objective. "These people are not inclined to treat things fairly," argues Russell, who has represented other clients in disputes with Simon Fraser. "You're led inexorably to the conclusion that they are ideologically biased going in."

Meanwhile, the debate over what to replace the university's existing harassment policy with continues to divide the campus. A draft policy being circulated for comment would dramatically change how Simon Fraser deals with the issue. The task of ensuring acceptance of harassment would

be taken away from volunteers representing faculty, staff and the student body, and be put in the hands of experienced outside arbitrators. If that decision leads to a decision, a panel chaired by one would hold a hearing first in most cases would be open to the public. And in an attempt to insulate future presidents from Stubbs' fate, the entire apparatus would report to a vice-president, instead of to the university's chief executive.

Much of that may be greeted before a new policy is voted on for SFU's approval next month. On many key proposals, according to task force chairman Jack Munro, "there are very polar views." And so new policy is likely to silence all of Simon Fraser's critics—including some who question whether universities should be trying to regulate relationships at all. John Fraser teaches cultural studies and English at Ontario's Trent University and two years ago published a book accusing academics of "sexual pranks" in his response to allegations of sexual inappropriateness in many cases. Fraser's stance, however, is in line for indicating what he calls "institutional harassment" on individuals like Donnelly. Before then, he says, may prove to be little more than a "change from kangaroo courts to quasi-political kangaroo courts."

Among the other thinkers who gathered over Burnaby Mountain there recalls the uncertain future of John Stubbs. The 56-year-old historian and career administrator came to Simon Fraser from Trent, where he wrote the book that he "launched a full-scale review of harassment procedures in his last year." In an interview since June and under medical treatment for depression, Stubbs had week declined to comment on Blaney's disclosures. His contract with Simon Fraser expires next year, and last March the university announced that it would be renewed for another two years.

But when Blaney's mandate led SFU officials to confirm that a new contract had been signed, they referred the question to board chairman David Ross. Ross would only say: "I have no comment."

Stubbs' medical leave expires at the end of December. By then, interim president Blaney hopes to have put a new sexual harassment policy in place. But the issue remains murky. "I think people are honestly struggling to know how to deal with each other," suggests Susan Shaw, director of the University of Victoria's Office for the Prevention of Discrimination and Harassment. "And maybe some ways that used to be acceptable are no longer acceptable. There can be a lot of confusion, a lot of misperception." And, as Simon Fraser has learned, so small amounts of pain as well. □





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# Scandal and suicide

A tragic death darkens the Gardens' sordid tale

No one would mark the place where Martin Kruse chose to die. There are no flowers, no fading sunshades, not even a grim wreath of police tape to indicate that a young man ended his days at the site. The spot itself is not unpleasant, a verdant patch of long meadow grass sandwiched between the Don River and the Don Valley Parkway, within sight of downtown Toronto's skyline, but a bit at the bottom of a deep ravine almost directly beneath one of the city's principal bridges, the Bloor Street Viaduct. On the bright morning of Oct. 30, around 11 o'clock, Kruse, the tortured 25-year-old whose complaints of sexual abuse uncovered a scandal at Maple Leaf Gardens, jumped off the bridge, plunging to his death. "It is a tragedy that should never have happened," his sister-in-law, Teresa Kruse, told *Maclean's*. "The torment Martin had to go through in his last short life made him decide to do what he did."

No one may ever know precisely what drove the troubled young man to commit his final desperate act, but few doubt that his suicide—like his attempted life several times before—was directly linked to the seven years of sexual abuse he suffered when, as a starry-eyed 12-year-old hockey worshipping, he first fell into the unscrupulous hands of a ring of pedophiles operating out of Maple Leaf Gardens. It was Kruse's courage in publicly describing such a sin years after the crime he endured, between 1985 and 1992 that blew the lid off the story. And in one of the many sad twists of the tale, Kruse jumped from the Bloor Viaduct only three days after one of his abusers,

47-year-old Gordon Stockless, was sent to jail for two years (on a day no more than 28 charges of indecent and sexual assault—sentences that victims feared an obscenely light. Kruse died almost within sight of the former Gardens assistant equipment manager, who at the time was being held in Toronto jail, just over a kilometre south of the Bloor bridge.

Despite the confluence of time and location, Kruse's final days and Martin Stockless's sentence, which includes three years' probation after prison as well as chemical

counselling, for the young man's decision to take his life. "It is a matter of public record that Martin tried to take his life several times in the past," said his sister-in-law. Only six days before he leaped from the Bloor bridge, in fact, Kruse had attempted to hurl himself off another bridge—the Leslie—further north on the Don Valley Parkway. He was preceded by the lonely interview



Investigators at the scene: Kruse (top right); Stockless: sexual abuse and a life of torment

with Metro Toronto Police Const. Mike Jenkins, who remembered being struck by Kruse's "sullen, beaten" demeanor. "It was obvious that this was a fellow who was going to jump," Jenkins, a 22-year-veteran of the police force, told *Maclean's*.

When the constable asked why he wanted to kill himself, Kruse replied: "I've had enough. I want to die. I want somebody to watch me." The response, Jenkins recalled, "really got me, just the way he said it, the look in his eyes and everything. I knew this wasn't just somebody looking for attention."

As Jenkins engaged Kruse in conversation, he managed to edge closer: "I got within six or eight feet of him," said the constable, "and at that point he made up his mind he was going." Jenkins watched as Kruse flung a fist over the bridge's railing. "I tackled him, knocked him down, got on him until another officer arrived," said Jenkins. "When he was on the ground, he said, 'I don't want to hurt you, I just want to die.'"

It would take almost another week before that occurred, however. Jenkins took Kruse to Toronto East General Hospital, where he was admitted under the Mental Health Act as posing a danger to himself. In keeping with the law, Kruse was discharged 72 hours later, on Monday, Oct. 27. It was the same day that Ontario Court Justice David Wald handed down Stockless's sentence, a decision that was roundly denounced by many of those who fell victim to the former Gardens employee or his two alleged accomplices.

One, former equipment manager George Hensch, is now dead. The other, one-time usher John Paul Ruby, awaits trial.

Had it not been for Kruse's decision to step forward last winter, few details of the sordid affair would likely have surfaced. Not only did he describe his own experiences, he encouraged dozens of others in publicly recounting their tales of Gardens' personnel whispering favors to hockey-mad youngsters only to prey on them. Like Kruse, many found that access to hockey parties and equipment often required sexual payment—from lending to sexual manipulation and oral sex, sometimes in groups.

That sort of abuse, says Jeanie Uppier of the Ottawa-based Canadian Institute of Child Health, can have devastating consequences.

"With survivors," she notes, "typically have difficulty building trust in relationships, often suffer from profound feelings of blame, guilt, self-doubt."

Those are certainly symptoms similar to those described by Kruse himself. And while no one in his family is willing to draw a direct link between his death and the sentence handed down to his abuser, they share the view held by many of the victims of the Gardens pedophiles. "In the end, we feel that justice was not served," Kruse's family noted in a statement released after his death. "Unfortunately, Martin paid the biggest price of all—with his life."

BABY'S GAME with DANYLO HARALEVICH in Toronto



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## Canada NOTES

### RETRYING LATIMER

Once again, Robert Latimer has focused attention on the question of euthanasia. The farmer from Midale, Sask., was convicted of second-degree murder in the 1983 carbide monoxide poisoning of his daughter Tracy, 12, who suffered from cerebral palsy. The Supreme Court of Canada ordered a new trial after concluding that jurors had been improperly questioned about their beliefs on mercy killing. Last week, prosecution witnesses testified that Tracy enjoyed music and interacted with other children. The defence maintains that Latimer acted out of compassion.

### EXTRADITION BLOCKED

An Ontario judge blocked the extradition of three Canadians to Pennsylvania to face fraud charges after a U.S. prosecutor suggested on CBC TV's fifth estate that they faced heavy prison terms with the possibility of being "the boyfriend of a very bad man." Judge Bruce Hawke concluded that extradition could violate the men's charter rights.

### REGAN WINS A ROUND

Former Nova Scotia premier Gerald Regan won a skirmish in his battle to clear himself of sexual assault charges. Justice Michael MacDonald of the province's Supreme Court ordered the Crown to release portions of prosecutors' interviews with the 19 women who have accused Regan of crimes ranging from adolescent assault to rape. The case is still in pretrial and subject to a publication ban.

### MACLELLAN STEPS IN

Further distancing himself from his predecessor, John Savage, Nova Scotia Liberal Premier Russell MacLellan denounced the 17,000-hectare Cape Breton wilderness known as Jim Campbell's Broom as a protected area. Savage, who stepped down in July, removed the barren from the province's list of protected wilderness areas to allow for mining exploration.

### POSTAL BREAKDOWN

After seven months of bargaining, conciliator talks between Canada Post and the Canadian Union of Postal Workers broke down, setting the stage for a possible postal strike later this month. Both sides agreed to resume negotiations this week.



James and Helen Brewer with their daughter Jacqueline.

## The tragedy of neglect

The evidence was chilling—and the verdict applied. In Saint John, N.B., Marc James, 25, and Helen Brewer, 23, were convicted of manslaughter in the death of their two-year-old daughter, Jacqueline Brewer, who died of dehydration due to neglect shortly before last Christmas. According to testimony at the trial, Jacqueline was not given anything to drink for up to six days before her death and had been dead for up to 12 hours before she

was finally taken to hospital. Medical experts also said that a pet churchilla had gnawed on one of the child's hands after she died. Jacqueline's two siblings, a one-year-old boy and a five-year-old girl, are now under the care of child-protection services. James and Brewer will be sentenced on Nov. 17. Opposition politicians in the province called for a public inquiry into the role of social service workers, who had worked extensively with the family.

In Alberta, another tragic case also raised questions about the care of children. A newborn, deceased at the side of a road near the Sturgeon River near Hobbema, Al-

ta, died 15 hours later. Tarcus Padet's parents, Lorna Olayinka and Paul Allen, have no car or phone and began walking down their dirt road shortly after Olayinka went into labor. Although they were passed by several cars, no one assisted them. Finally, two community health nurses stopped to help but found the child had no pulse. She was taken to the hospital in nearby Waskowin and then airlifted to Edmonton, where doctors failed to revive her.

### JUSTICE

## Fetal rights ruling

In a 7 to 2 decision, the Supreme Court of Canada upheld earlier rulings that a fetus has no legal rights. The case revolved around a Winnipeg woman who, in 1995, was ordered by a Manitoba judge into a birth-control program when she was five months pregnant and suffering from solvent addiction. But the woman, known only as M.G., sued, precipitating a legal battle. In its decision, the Supreme Court said the question of fetal rights must be left up to elected politicians. "There are not the sort of changes which come from law courts or a shield strike," wrote Justice Beverly MacLellan. "If anybody is to be done, the legislature is in a much better position to weigh the competing interests and leave it a decision that is principled and narrowly intrusive to pregnant women." M.G., who is pregnant again, earlier returned in the birth-control program, and says that she is now his of her addiction.

## More than just hot air

The Canadian government committed itself to meeting the American challenge to set standards for greenhouse gas emissions. The announcement by Prime Minister Jean Chrétien provided a kick start for government officials who have been struggling to hammer out a policy to meet for the December signing of an international global-warming treaty in Kyoto, Japan. The critics contended that the commitment means little, since the emissions supported by the United States—to 1990 levels over the next 30 to 15 years—aren't the weakest among the industrialized nations. Countries in the European Union, on the other hand, have already promised to reduce emissions to 10 per cent below 1990 levels by 2010, while some, notably Germany and Britain, have lowered their emissions substantially since the early 1990s.

In contrast, Canada's have risen by 15 per cent during the same period. But reducing the country's emissions could be difficult, federal officials say, because Canada's thinly spread population, cold climate and reliance on resource industries create a greater demand for energy than in many other nations. The federal government is also hampered by the need to meet agreement with the provinces. It has been especially difficult to reach an accord with Alberta, which is determined to avoid measures that could hurt the oilpatch.

# Back to business

## Deals dominate a U.S. visit by China's leader

**T**he best place from which to judge the impact of Chinese President Jiang Zemin's visit to Washington last week was not the White House, where Jiang and President Bill Clinton went mano a mano over the contentious issue of human rights. And it was not outside in Lafayette Park, where Tibetans, Chinese dissidents and others gathered to chant and pray and denounce Jiang's policies. It was, rather, a few blocks away in a crowded room at the U.S. Commerce Department, where Chinese officials and executives of the Beijing Co. grined and applauded themselves, Chinese-style, before signing a deal worth \$1 billion. They were bankers and business and insurance deals between the cities of the United States, China and Beijing in the Chinese agreed to buy 50 aircraft from the Seattle-based giant. Boeing helpfully estimated that the agreement means work for 30,000 Americans and if there was any further doubt about the message behind the elaborate event, it was laid to rest by a slogan, as the wall "U.S. exports = U.S. jobs."

No wonder, then, that the protesters who dogged Jiang's steps throughout his weeklong trek across the United States had no ill effect. Relations between Beijing and Washington may have hot and cold, but U.S. business has long had its collective eye on China on the tumbled market of 1.2 billion people. Last week's summit—the first one visit by a Chinese leader to Washington in a dozen years—produced no political breakthroughs. Its most accomplishments were economic: the Beijing deal and an agreement that clears the way for U.S. energy companies to sell as much as 500 billion worth of energy to markets in China. The grant list at the White House dinner honoring Jiang told the tale of war waged with the chairman, presidents and CEOs of such major corporations as DuPont, Xerox, Motorola, Time Warner, Bell Atlantic and General Electric. And, of course, Boeing, whose chairman, Philip Condit, understandably said that he had a "wonderful feeling" about the meeting.

It has been decidedly less than wonderful outside, where Richard Gere—actor, Redempt and leading U.S. spokesman for the cause of Tibet—urged efforts of Jiang. Tibetians opposing Chinese cultural domination, Taiwanese wary of Beijing's designs on their island and supporters of dissidents imprisoned in the Angus, China's equivalent of the old Soviet giant, joined to condemn Clinton's decision to give Jiang the full honours of a state visit.

"This is not exactly new China we're talking about here," declared Gere, whose latest movie taps into the deep-seated American suspicion of China's unknownable Communist regime. And Gere, who's

spectred last week, stars Gere as an American businessman lured for murder in China. Hollywood, deprived of an obvious geopolitical villain since the Soviet Union collapsed, has seized on China. Best film matches in Chinese troops march into the Himalayas in *Snows Xmas* as Tibet, while Martin Scorsese sympathetically portrays the Dalai Lama in *Rainbow*, due for release at Christmas.

A bit of movies may not mean much, but China's closing has increased markedly in the past year even as Washington and Beijing edged cautiously closer to each other—exacerbating in Jiang's eyes. Laborers that U.S. business will create more and more jobs to lure away China. Conservative



Jiang Zemin  
Colloquial  
Washington:  
Here at a Tibet  
protest (left):  
This is not a  
cuddly one  
China we're  
talking about

Christians, appalled by the forced abortions they say result from Beijing's one-child policy and by its persecution of religious dissent, have lent their support. "They have people of 500 sitting in class here camp making Christmas ornaments for sale at the United States," said Gary Bauer, a leading conservative activist, as he mingled with Buddhist devotees and human rights campaigners within the White House. "It's immoral." Other voices portray China as an outright threat. In a controversial book entitled *The Coming Conflict With China*, journalist Richard Bernstein and Ross MacFarlane—Canadian who once covered Beijing for *The Globe and Mail*—paint a frightening, if speculative, picture of a restless nation determined to dominate Asia. China and the U.S. deal, they write with a logic that has been taken up on both the left and the right, "have become global rivals, countries whose interests are tense [and] whose interests are in conflict."

That was the delicate state of play as Jiang embarked on his Ameri-

can journey. China's leaders, more than most, are keenly aware of opportunities and Jiang engaged in his usual, he displayed vigorous health for a 71-year-old by donning a blue polo shirt and plunging into the Pacific for more than an hour. In Williamsburg, Va., a restored colonial town replete with reminders of America's fight for freedom, he met an actor dressed as Thomas Jefferson and donned a three-cornered hat. No one could raise the paradox with Jiang: Xiang's 1978 American tour, when he posed in a cowboy hat as a rock star. Throughout, it appeared that Jiang had come from the New York Stock Exchange to Harvard University. Jiang peppered his public utterances with phrases in workmanlike English. "I like it," he declared when asked how he was enjoying the beach at Waikiki.

The smiling Jiang, however, signaled anything but a more conciliatory attitude in Beijing. The Chinese made no concessions to the Americans as the key issues of human rights and trade. Beijing did not ease the situation of imprisoned dissidents Wu Jueping and Wang Ding in a goodwill gesture, which Washington had pressed for. Neither did it take any significant steps towards lowering trade barriers, which would have allowed the United States to speed China's entry into the World Trade Organization. And most significantly, Jiang gave no ground when he and Clinton faced off over human rights in an extraordinary exchange during a joint news conference.

Then when Jiang was asked whether he had any regrets about the 1989 movement at Beijing's Tiananmen Square, when Chinese troops crushed the infant democracy movement, Jiang was uncompromising. Beijing had to take "necessary measures" in order "to protect our country's unity and stability and that our reform and opening up proceeds smoothly." He, he continued with a res-

olute answer with his Chinese counterpart in Beijing, the highest-level beneficiary of Jiang's visit, has led a massive corporate offensive to make sure that nothing gets in the way of making the No. 1 job offer between the two countries. It has enlisted scores of Fortune 500 companies in organizations such as the U.S.-China Business Council, which lobby in Washington to make sure that human rights concerns do not interfere with the pursuit of commerce, and that Washington grants China most favored nation trading status each year.

In many cases, says an Asia expert on Capitol Hill, Clinton's effort instructs potential business partners to join the campaign. "They're told to do it or they won't get favorable terms in China," she said. "China's very up-front about what it wants." Companies can be punished, as well, if their governments displease Beijing. Boeing lost business to its archrival, Airbus Industrie of France, when Paris took a more conciliatory line towards China—such as dropping its support for a recent UN resolution condemning Beijing's human rights record. In *The Coming Conflict With China*, Bernstein and Munro say the result has been "one of the broadest business efforts to influence national policy in all of American history."

All that helped Jiang go home a winner: He got what he wanted: recognition in Washington as a major world figure, and a chance to put Tiananmen behind him. The United States gained a major asset deal and a pledge by China to stop its nuclear cooperation with two U.S.-friendly U.S. companies such as Westinghouse and General Electric to bid on lucrative reactor contracts in China, whose demand for energy is skyrocketing. The American also gained new evidence, if any was needed, that China expects to be treated as a major world player—not strictly on its own terms. □



spring grin, abides by the generally accepted rules of human rights. Clinton, his arms folded, his eyes fixed stubbornly on the floor, batted it before another question could be asked. "I just have to say one other thing," he began, before pointedly telling Jiang that his government is "on the wrong side of history" when it comes to human rights. A polite exchange by most standards—but a virtual abeyance by the expanding formal rules of courtesy. Jiang's cool defiance was on display again the next day, when he countered critics of Beijing's policy towards Tibet by contending that China had actually liberated a million "serfs and slaves" there (he could express a more he could be compared to the feeling of the slaves in the United States).

Although Jiang later conceded that Beijing may have made "some mistakes" in its handling of the democracy movement, his performance made clear that China's leadership feels as needed to bend to pressure. In that, Beijing's best allies are the American business leaders who flocked to Washington last week to

## SNAPPY NEW TRIPOD

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## Building bridges

Constitution, residents of the six "party towns" consists of Northerners inclined to, considered citizens of the south. She is a conservative Catholic who opposes the legislation of abortion and divorce, hot issues in Ireland. Admirers describe her as brilliant and articulate, a woman with a finished understanding of the problems of Northern Ireland.

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## WORLD

land who can "build bridges" between its divided communities, and between the north and south. Her detractors say she is cold and arrogant, with a "Mugger's Thatcher smile." And most cruel, the critics say, McAleese, with her Catholic nationalist ties (she has a cousin serving a life prison term for an IRA sectarian murder), will only deepen the fissures that plague the island.

McAleese's closest opponent was Mary Hanon, 58, her political and booksite. Hanon is also a nationalist, as befits the grandniece of Collins, who negotiated the 1921 treaty with England that won independence for the south. But she is known as a longtime peace activist and an advocate of a negotiated settlement. A European parliamentarian, she is pro-choice on abortion (although she played down that issue during the campaign), and is herself divorced. Warm and chatty where McAleese is poised and cool, she had solid support among young people, particularly women. "It would be great to have a single mother as president," said Jane Kerran, a 23-year-old chemistry student from Tipperary, watching the candidates on a television debate before the election. "Mary Hanon is a real person who has had real problems. She lives like us."

But there were indicators that many voters were not interested in a president as "modern" as Hanon. The surprise story in the election was Denis Roscrea Scallan, 46, who won 14 per cent of the initial vote in Ireland's preferential system, even though most commentators were still dismissing her as a joke when the polls closed. Scallan, who came home from Alabama where she hosts an evangelical Christian talk show, was well-known in Ireland for winning the Eurovision Song Contest at 18 with the song *I Have All Kinds of Feelsings*. She ran on a shrewdly conservative "family values" platform. The rural leader in the polls was Ann Roche, 42, the left-leaning executive director of the Children of Charlestown charity, but her standing plummeted due to a series of gaffes.

There were other factors behind the outcome, not least what historian Dermot Keogh calls the "tribal power" of the Fianna Fail political machine that backed McAleese. Her conservative stance on issues like abortion also played well in rural areas and with older voters. But the Northern Ireland rupture was crucial. After beating Hanon in the final count by 59 to 45 per cent—the largest margin ever in an Irish presidential election—McAleese pledged to be "above politics, to be a president for all the people." She said she would "beck to lead the heart" of divided Ireland, and again pledged to build bridges. With the shadow of Sinn Féin hanging over her, McAleese may need some long bridges indeed.

STEPHANIE NOLEN in Dublin

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## World NOTES

### NEW SWISS LIST

Swiss banks released 14,000 more names of dormant account holders from the Second World War era, including 2,700 foreigners. The accounts contained a total of about \$11 million, mostly in amounts under \$145, the banked Jewish groups, which have long demanded information about the accounts, still questioned whether the list was comprehensive. An initial tally of 1,800 foreign-held accounts, worth \$57 million, has drawn 3,800 claims since it was published in July.

### DEATH FOR FIREBOMBING

Two Egyptian brothers jumped for joy and shouted "Allah is great" as they were sentenced to death for killing five German tourists and a bus driver in Cairo in September. The pair, convicted of a gun and firebomb attack that turned the bus into an inferno, said they supported Islamic ideology but did not belong to any of the militant groups fighting the government.

### ALGERIANS PROTEST

Up to 30,000 Algerians turned out for the biggest anti-government demonstration in five years to protest what leaders called abuses faced in recent local elections. The march included an unusually broad front of political groups, including a moderate party with ministers in the government.

### FAREWELL, PATHFINDER

U.S. space officials said the historic *Pathfinder* mission to Mars would officially end on Nov. 4, four months after its landing craft and small roving buggy began transmitting pictures of the Red Planet that stunned scientists. The two, whose operations defied all expectations, finally stopped communicating with Earth on Sept. 27.

### ZAMBIAN EMERGENCY

Zambian President Frederick Chiluba imposed martial law after killing a coup attempt by police military officers in the southern African state. At least 17 people were arrested in connection with the power grab.

### WOMEN IN THE NBA

The National Basketball Association hired two women referees, the first in any major sports league with all-male players. The hire, Dee Kinnier and Violet Palmer, had previously officiated at preseason games.



**CHARLES STEPS OUT:** Prince Charles greets Leona Helmsdorf, the 48-year-old heir to the throne, at a banquet in Swaziland. In a speech at the banquet, the prince said he would like to modernize his own monarchy. Later, he joined his younger son, Prince Harry, 13, in South Africa. At home, Diana's family announced that Althorp Park, their estate, where she is buried on an island in an ornamental lake, will be opened to the public from July 1 to Aug. 30. Visitors will be allowed to view the island from a distance but not to go to it.

## A U.S. showdown with Iraq

Iraq and the United States headed for yet another confrontation after Saddam Hussein's government prevented two American arms inspectors from entering the country. Iraq also ordered 30 U.S. inspectors already in the country to leave, prompting Washington to threaten retaliation—possibly including a military strike. State Department spokesman James A. Baker said the United States was "not ruling out any option." The Iraqis gave the Americans, who are members of a 40-member United Nations team, one week to leave Iraq. But after a meeting of the Security Council, the United Nations insisted it would resume its checks that week with "all methodologies" participating.

Washington says an explosion would violate UN resolutions intended to prevent Iraq from rebuilding its arsenal after the 1991 Gulf War. The United Nations wants to make sure Iraq destroys long-range missiles and so-called weapons of mass destruction, including poison gas, and cannot reach its threat to Kuwait, which it invaded in 1990. But Iraq has played a cat-and-mouse game with the inspectors, often refusing them permission to visit key weapons sites and hiding activities. Deputy Prime Minister Tariq al-Hassbi accused the U.S. representatives of being spies and said Iraq saw no purpose in co-operating with the inspection team as long as it was under American influence.

## Anger over a nanny's murder conviction

A 15-year-old English nanny was convicted of murdering the baby in her care in Cambridge, Mass., and sentenced to life in prison. The action against a pair of London Woodward caused outrage in Britain, and her parents vowed an all-out fight to overturn their "innocent child." The prosecution told Woodward, 21, that she had killed the 11-month-old Matthew James, violently shook him and hit his head against a hard surface. Defense lawyer Barry Schock, who is paid defendant G. J. Simpson, brought in medical experts who testified that the injuries were two to three weeks old. Woodward sobbed "I didn't do anything" when the jury convicted her.



# Sailing Through the Cyclone

## Business

Prudent investors have learned how to weather stock market storms

BY TOM FENNELL

**T**aking to his workshop overlooking the blue waters of Burnaby Inlet in Burnaby, B.C., Bob Sterne seems safely insulated from the hurly-burly of the world's equity markets. Fiberglass models for the radio-controlled model sailboats he builds for a living are stacked against a wall and a workbench is covered with tools. But in the corner, a television set broadcasting the late financial news station is the boudoir of his nervousness from the fear of the New York Stock Exchange. The news this day is grim, bemoaning an catastrophe. Sterne, who has \$200,000 invested in the stock market, puts down his soldering iron and an everted anemometer describes the carnage: "I must every blue-chip stock in North America has been hit. The benchmark Dow Jones industrial average is plummeting—and will end the day down 254 points, the greatest single-day point loss in its history."

For from panicking, Sterne held firmly to his investments as the markets continued to gyrate last week. His reaction was hardly unique. Across the country, nervous investors phoned their brokers in search of guidance and advice, but few actually gave the order to sell. In fact, many saw last week's market dip as an ideal buying opportunity after three years of dramatic increases in share prices. "I just wish I had more money," Sterne said early in the week, before the North American markets began a surprising recovery. "I'd start buying stocks at these prices."

The market's swift turnaround left many investors feeling as though they had just sailed away unscathed from a vicious car wreck. On its worst day last week, the Dow finished at 7,162, down 15 per cent from its all-time high of 8,250 set on Aug. 6. The Toronto Stock Exchange's 300 index, meanwhile, lost 2.7 per cent during the week, and is now down 0.2 per cent from its high of 7,289, set on Oct. 7. The hemorrhaging may not be over. Many investment strategists predict the markets will take investors on yet another wild ride as stocks head lower over the near term. "This was a dead-end house," said John King, president of Montreal-based Mission Placements Canada Inc. "We



Sterne at work in his Burnaby, B.C., home: market dips are a bargain-buyer's best friend



could go lower from here."

If that forecast proves correct, millions of Canadian investors may begin to rethink their love affair with stocks and equity mutual funds. For now, however, the mood remains generally optimistic. Since Black Monday in October, 1987—the day the Dow Jones index lost 282.1 per cent of its value—financial advisers have been counselling their clients to invest for the long haul by building diversified portfolios of stocks, bonds and fixed-income securities. That message seemed to find a receptive audience in the 1990s, as stock market investors reaped gains averaging about 15 per cent per year since 1992

The bullfistness was obvious last week at a branch of the CIBC in downtown St. John's, Nfld. All week long, account holders visited the branch to deposit money into their mutual funds. Mike Maguire, 27, an account manager at the bank, wished that he too, could have put money into the market. "It kills me that I can cash poor or I would have bought equities on Monday," Maguire said. "My roommate put an extra \$1,000 in his mutual funds."

Through it all, many investors remained convinced that the cause of last week's market sell-off—a financial crisis gripping Southeast Asia—would ultimately have little impact on North American markets. That conviction in the spring when currency traders, convinced that Asia's fast-growing economies were due for a correction, began a series of attacks on the currencies of Indonesia, Malaysia, Thailand and the Philippines. As exchange rates tumbled, investors fled the region's equity markets, triggering a rash of corporate bankruptcies.

Hong Kong, traditionally an island of stability among Asia's

volatile markets, was initially spared. But late last month, currency speculators took aim at the Hong Kong dollar in the belief that real estate prices in the former British colony were inflated and that any slump in the property market would severely damage Hong Kong's banks, which are heavily exposed to the property sector. To prevent a run on the currency, Hong Kong authorities raised interest rates—which in turn sent stock prices reeling. As investors shifted into safer fixed-income securities, the market quickly lost 25 per cent of its value in little more than three weeks.

When Hong Kong dropped another 5.8 per cent last Monday, some North American investors took it as a sign that the bull run was finally at an end. By 2:30 p.m., the Dow had lost 350 points, prompting exchange officials to halt trading for 30 minutes—a contingency introduced after the 1987 crash to limit the risk of another market meltdown. The shutdown was intended to give investors time to cool off, but when trading resumed the index immediately fell another 204 points. In the end, exchange officials decided to close the market a half hour early at 3:30 p.m. "None of us expected the market to just shut down," said Robert Ray, an options trader with Carr Futures Inc. in New York City. "At least it was orderly, however uncomfortable it was."

There is an old Wall Street saying that a panic bubble never bursts, and that stocks usually fall again the day after a hurried sell-off. So when traders returned to work on Tuesday morning, they were expecting another terrible day. Sure enough, the Dow lost another 170 points in the opening 20 minutes as brokerage





SPECIAL REPORT

## What happened to the dollar?

Despite predictions, Canada is struggling to keep the loonie aloft

When Jester's crystal ball must have been a little frosty last January, Justin, the Bank of Nova Scotia's chief economist, boldly predicted that Canada's lacklustre loonie was finally about to take flight. After two years of wobbling between 72 and 74 cents (U.S.), he reasoned, the dollar was set to climb and would likely reach 75 cents by year's end. Jester was far from alone. Battered by forecasts of strong economic growth, cautious of interest rates and declining government deficits, economists across the board were bullish on the buck. Some optimists even forecast an exchange rate of 80 cents by late 1997.

Two months later, the dollar has barely budged and the prognosticators are looking far from prescient. Still, like weather forecasters who have been wrong many times before, Jester and his colleagues are undeterred and even cautiously hopeful. "It's unexpected," he says. "Looking at the economic fundamentals, they're all pointing to a return of the currency."

Perhaps so, but last week's chaos in financial markets dampened expectations in some quarters that the dollar's long-predicted revival will occur anytime soon. As stocks plummeted, currency speculators chopped almost half a cent from the dollar, pushing it back to the level the Bank of Canada would be loath to raise interest rates—the traditional means of propping up the currency—at a time of global market turmoil. As the loonie slid to a 2½-year low of 70.6 cents, the central bank adopted another tactic, buying up hundreds of millions of dollars to bolster the currency's value. By the close of trading on Friday, the



### Vehicles arriving from Japan: rising imports

latter-half buck had risen only modestly to 73 cents. The dollar's floundering in international money markets worsened some observers' views of the apparent strength of the Canadian economy. But in some respects, that strength masks underlying problems, says Mario Augustaitis, an economist with Standard and Poor's MDS in Toronto. During the July-to-September quarter, he estimates, Canada's current account—the sum total of all money flowing into and out of the country from trade, interest payments and other sources—was in the red by as much as \$17 billion. That represents a sharp turnaround from 1996, when the current account was in surplus by \$3.4 billion.

Augustaitis says the deficit, caused largely by an increase in imports and a decline in exports, could keep the dollar under 75 cents. While a cheap dollar is a boon to exporters, it can be costly for consumers who buy imported goods and companies that rely on foreign-produced equipment or supplies. Moreover, another slide would almost certainly force Bank of Canada governor Gordon Thiessen to raise rates in a bid to attract money into the country.

It was a failure to accurately predict when Thiessen would push up interest rates that led economists to forecast a rapid increase in the deficit. Many analysts expected that rates would begin rising early this year in order to head off an expected increase in inflation. But as the year began, "the domestic economy was hardly growing at all and exports were generating all the growth," says Jayson Myers, chief economist for the Alliance of Manufacturers and Exporters Canada. As a result, Thiessen kept rates low. The strategy worked by lackluster consumer spending, but that led to an increase in demand for imported goods—one of the factors behind today's current account deficit. Meanwhile, economic troubles in Germany and Japan lowered the value of those currencies against the Canadian dollar, so exports to those countries declined.

To bring the current account into balance, Augustaitis says, the federal government must cut the national debt and reduce its interest costs. The flow of money out of the country has also been encouraged by more attractive interest rates in the United States—which are now roughly two percentage points higher than in Canada. But that spread is narrowing, says Jester, because the Bank of Canada is moving more aggressively than the U.S. Federal Reserve to tighten monetary conditions. Further aid by signs of stronger growth, Thiessen forecast the key leading rate by a quarter of a percentage point on June 25 and the same amount on Oct. 1.

At least one more hike in rates is expected by the end of the year. But the bar of the central bank's next move will be critical, observers say. Despite the weak dollar, the bank will risk more turbulence in Canadian stock markets—and further losses for the loonie—if it moves too quickly to increase rates. "The last thing it wants to do is look like it's picking to support the dollar because then the Bank of Canada will look like the Bank of Malaysia," says Myers. In short, most economists will believe the dollar is due for an upward revolution. The only question is when.

JOHN SCHWELF

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- How many different parts of Florida have you visited in the past five years?  
Miami ☐ Daytona ☐ Ft. Lauderdale ☐  
Lee Island (Golf) ☐ Myrtle Beach ☐ Destin ☐  
New Smyrna ☐ Other ☐
- When you go on vacation, do you usually take along children under the age of 18?  
Yes ☐ No ☐
- When do you plan on travelling to Florida:  
in the next 12 months ☐  
in the next 2-3 years ☐  
in the next 4-5 years ☐  
never ☐
- How long in advance do you plan a Florida vacation?  
less than 2 weeks ☐  
between 2 and 4 weeks ☐  
between 1 and 2 months ☐  
between 3 and 5 months ☐  
6 months ☐
- (a) Do you use a credit card when vacationing?  
Yes ☐ No ☐  
(b) If yes, which of the following major credit cards do you use?  
VISA ☐ MasterCard ☐ American Express ☐ Other ☐
- Is Florida a good value? Rank the following:  
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#### Official Entry Form

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### SPECIAL REPORT

# Still buoyant in the Year of the Bull

## Hong Kong's meltdown left Asian investors unfazed

As the Hong Kong stock market gyrated wildly and South-east Asian currencies continued to sink last week, the reaction from the Chinese-Canadian community was unimpressive. Calmer than anywhere else in the country, swamped the Mandarin- and Cantonese-language mutual fund bureaux of the Toronto-Dominion Bank, one of the major banks that service the Chinese community. But the offers were not in a panic. Far from wanting to dump their investments, they were buying more mutual fund shares—acquiring their holdings while the market was down.

The volume of calls was double what it normally is," said Tang Chien, vice-president of Asian banking for the Toronto-Dominion's Pacific division. "Buyers," he added, "clearly encouraged the sellers. The Chinese-Canadian investor sees this as a good time to pick up value."

Still, Asian investors were watching events across the Pacific closely. The Hong Kong market began its precipitous drop on Oct. 22, following a round of currency devaluations elsewhere in Southeast Asia. Once the Hong Kong market dropped, the domino effect began driving down share prices in Japan, Taiwan and North America.

The frantic gyrations of share prices around the world were hot topics at conversation last week over the news in Vancouver's Chinese community. "Everybody is talking about this," says Jimmy Kwok, managing director of Magnate Development (B.C.) Ltd., a Vancouver real estate developer whose parent company is headquartered in Hong Kong. "I just talked to a friend at lunch who has some investments in Hong Kong and he said his portfolio was down by 30 per cent. But he isn't worried. His says his investments are in there for the long term."

Like Kwok's friend, many Chinese-Canadians were unfazed by the stock market setbacks. "Many people from Hong Kong look at the stock market as a bit of roulette," said Chan. "You don't gamble with money you can't afford to lose." Added Vancouver lawyer Minnie Loh: "Most people here who have emigrated from Hong Kong have not touched the Hong Kong stock market in a big way. They have just put part of their assets in as a way to keep a hand in the market." Allen Lai, the Vancouver representative of Hong Kong billionaire developer Lee Shau Kee, said a downturn in the market would have little impact on the fabulously wealthy.



A Hong Kong trader probes the damage many look at stocks in a bit of roulette.

"If they lose \$3 billion or \$4 billion, it's all on paper."

What attracted the Chinese community for more than last week's sell-off was the return of Hong Kong to Chinese rule last July. The possible transition at the former British colony, coupled with frustration in Canada over tax rates and what is perceived as the slower pace of business in Canada, impelled some Hong Kong immigrants to return home. "You must have heard the story about people moving back last week, July 1, so they could keep their Hong Kong citizenship," said Loh. "A lot of that movement is driven by the business opportunities over there. Despite the downturn in the market, there is still a lot more happening there." The recent downturn in a demand for luxury houses in Vancouver bears Loh out. Between Jan. 1 and Sept. 30, 953 houses priced at \$1 million or more changed hands on the city's prestigious west side; in the same period of 1995, the figure was 243. In the view of many investors, business opportunities in Hong Kong and other Southeast Asian countries seem more fruitful.

Despite the recent ravages of Malaysia's Prime Minister Mahatir Mohamad's recent a Jewish conspiracy to wreck his country's economy, despite widespread bank closures in Thailand, economic weakness in the Philippines and human rights atrocities in Indonesia, Southeast Asia remains an engine of economic growth. David Board, chief economist for the Hongkong Bank of Canada, says, in fact, the current market turmoil is only a temporary blip for those countries. "These economies will continue to grow and continue to have heavy demands for certain kinds of investments—real estate, power systems, basic infrastructure," he said.

Board notes that Southeast Asia now has half the world's population but only 15 per cent of its wealth. "In 30 or 40 years it's going to have half of the world's wealth. These countries are growing so fast, and the stock markets are bound to reflect that." Meanwhile, Canada still looks like a stable place for Chinese-Canadians to invest their money. Said Chan: "My sense is that the money we have in Canada is pretty much money that is being invested for the future." Allen Lai says his offshore basis is in Canada for the long haul. So. The returns may not always be as great as in Hong Kong, but at least the market in Canada is less mercurial.

JENNIFER HUNTER in Vancouver

## FACTORY

In inactive cases, selecting a series that provides at least access to employment opportunities with progressive opportunities at Atlantic Canada. Deal to business looking for the right opportunity to "turn around" is also a north office approach.

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## The Bottom Line

## Bulls, bears and goats

One sign of excessive trading was a heady rally in the London

It is a comforting exercise to search for coherent patterns in some thing as raw and powerful as the stock market. But probably the most accurate reading of its temperature comes from informal indicators.

The most familiar of these is the Porsche reservation/rental index. As during other market peaks, there is now a long waiting list for German sports cars—not to mention the new Mercedes sport utility vehicle. It is virtually impossible to get a table at hot Bay Street restaurants without reserving far in advance. And Toronto's most affluent neighborhoods resonate with the harrier thrills of starter mansions everywhere.

More evidence that demand for stocks outstrips supply lies in the flurry of corporate spinoffs and initial public offerings.

Yet another sign of an excessively hot market is the proliferation of stockpicking contests such as the one sponsored by the *Fort Worth Star Telegram* in Texas. It pitted the portfolio choices of its readers, a steved named Rusty, against several local investment analysts. Between January and August, Rusty's stocks were

of an  
ely

On the subject of bears, bulls and storms, traders of the proposition that "the goats are coming" when a stock or a market is about to be stampeded by retail investors. Goats, after all, will eat its cars and almost anything else they can find. The recent proliferation of these "goats" on Wall Street is perhaps the ultimate sign that markets were overvalued.

Wall Street has become one of the hottest tourist attractions in New York City. People are jostling to have their pictures taken with the bronze statue of the bull on the corner of Broadway and Wall Street. Early every morning, tourists begin to line up—not for tickets to the latest musical, but for the 3,000 passes to the trading floor issued daily by the New York Stock Exchange.

To accommodate the crush, the exchange has spent \$2.8 million to expand its visitor centre. Even the relatively obscure New York Mercantile Exchange has spent \$1 million for an exhibit hall and two public viewing areas at its new facility.

Probably the most revealing informal indicator of an overheated market surfaced in the midst of last week's market mayhem: the fact that Mongolia actually has a stock exchange.

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# Offshore bonanza

The Sable Island gas project is close to reality

When former Nova Scotia premier John Buchanan ran for re-election in 1981, he based his campaign slogan—"The future is here"—on hopes that billions of dollars' worth of natural gas would soon be flowing through his province to the United States. Buchanan won a smashing victory, but the much-touted bonanza never materialized. Instead, Mobil Oil Canada Inc. suspended its exploration efforts off Nova Scotia's east coast in the mid-1980s because of low gas prices. Last month, Buchanan's promise finally appeared close to fulfillment as a federal-provincial review panel gave its blessing to a \$2-billion proposal to develop the offshore reserves and pipe the gas through New Brunswick to the United States. Buchanan was re-elected premier. Rosalind MacLellan "I think it's a great day for Nova Scotia."

The five-member review panel examined the environmental, economic and social implications of a proposal by a group of oil companies, led by Mobil, to pump three billion cubic feet of natural gas from under the ocean floor near Sable Island, 210 km off Nova Scotia's east coast, and to bring that gas ashore at Goldboro, a small fishing community in Guysborough County. It also reviewed a parallel by the Maritimes and Northern Pipeline consortium—in which Mobil has a 25-per-cent stake—to ship the gas through Gasberough County and on to New England. Last week's ruling was not, however, the last word. Both projects must now win final approval from the federal and Nova Scotia governments, something proponents hope to do before Christmas.

At the same time, the review panel faced the prospect of a legal challenge from either of two rival pipeline consortiums—North Atlantic Pipeline Partners, which had proposed an onshore route to New England, and the TransMaritime Pipeline Project, which argued for a route that would extend into Quebec before heading north into



A drilling platform destined for Sable Island's economic apostrophe

the United States. At week's end, the two groups—which had urged the panel to delay ruling until their own applications could be heard—were still mulling over their options. In Ottawa, meanwhile, Natural Resources Minister Ralph Goodale responded cautiously to the panel's report, saying that he intended to give it "very careful consideration" and to ensure that the government's ultimate decision is "based on a sound, proper, legal basis."

Goodale's circumspection was understandable. Last year, Prime Minister John Chretien created a stir by saying that he and Quebec Premier Lucien Bouchard hoped the Sable Island gas would be used to satisfy

Quebec's needs before it was shipped to the United States. Still, most analysts believe the Chretien government is unlikely to overturn the panel's recommendations. They maintain that an attempt by Ottawa to delay the project would risk the kind of regional outrage that erupted in Western Canada in 1980 when the Mulroney government awarded a major aerospace contract to a Montreal firm even though a competing Winnipeg company had bid lower.

Such political calculations were already on display in the House of Commons last week as Reform MP Darrell Stinson urged the Liberals to adopt the panel's recommendations with out delay, adding pointedly that the Liberals "should not allow the government's political perceptions, so to speak, to interfere in these decisions."

In Nova Scotia, the panel's report drew a mixed reception. Environmentalists complained that it gave short shrift to their concerns about the project's impact on water ways and wildlife habitats. Opposition politicians argued that the provincial government had won too few concessions for Nova Scotia. They gloriously pointed out that a last-minute intervention by MacLellan—who he elected, Liberal leader and premier just two days before public hearings on the Sable gas project, concluded in July—had failed to convince the review panel to grant Nova Scotia a 50-per-cent price discount over New Brunswick's gas rates for the 35-year life of the project. Still other vocal opponents of panel chairman Bob Fournier, a marine biologist at Dalhousie University, who warned against venturing Sable gas as "an economic panacea." Fournier noted that, after the initial construction boom, the project would create only 240 full-time jobs.

But in Guysborough County, there was considerable rejoicing over the panel's rulings. The county's unemployment rate stands at 27 per cent, and any prospect of jobs is welcome news. The project also promises to deliver significant jobs in the service sector and make it easier for the area to attract other industries. "There is a perceptible optimism that finally something is going to happen and we're going to be in the middle of it," says Gordon MacDonald, executive director of the Guysborough County Regional Development Authority. That new sense of hope, he adds, may be the biggest benefit of all.

BRIAN KIRKMAN is in Halifax

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## JOBS STAMPEDE

Job seekers showed Alberta's oil patch with phone calls after reports that the industry faces a shortage of unskilled labor. Roger Soucy, president of the Petroleum Services Association of Grande, estimated that western drilling operations need about 5,000 workers, but contracted job hunters not to relocate without an offer.

## MONTREAL REVIVAL

Quebec City-based Industrial Life Insurance Co. bought Montreal's swiftno Simpson's store from the Hudson's Bay Co. for \$21 million and announced a \$54-million renovation plan. The eight-story building has been empty since 1989. Famous Players Ltd. plans to convert the top six floors into a multiplex theatre.

## AGENTS ON THE ATTACK

Travel agents went to court to stop Air Canada and Canadian Airlines International Ltd. from cutting commissions. The Association of Canadian Travel Agents is also seeking injunctions against the other airlines. ACTA says the cuts will cost the industry \$106 million a year.

## EATON'S IN THE CLEAR

T. Eaton Co. Ltd. emerged from eight months of bankruptcy protection. Under a \$618-million restructuring plan, creditors will receive \$280 million in cash and \$140 million in interest-bearing notes. The plan calls for the closure of 17 of 35 stores, seven of which have already been shut.

## SQUABBLE OVER BRE-X

Two groups of shareholders are battling over the remains of Bre-X Minerals Ltd., the Calgary-based firm that lately claimed to have discovered a massive gold deposit. One camp wants Bre-X and its parent company, Breco Resources Ltd., pushed into bankruptcy. The other group says Breco should remain in operation. Most of Breco's \$26 million in assets are already under court control.

## DYLEX ABANDONS BID

Dylox Ltd. abandoned a \$130-million bid for Calgary-based Merit's Work Warehouse after Merit's shareholders outbids the offer at too low. Dylox, whose retail outlets include Run-weather and Top Top Tapers, said it will keep searching for acquisitions.

## Still Interbrew's ball game

The owners of the Toronto Blue Jays have taken down the "For sale" sign outside the city's SkyDome—for now. In a surprise move, Belgium-based Interbrew SA broke off talks to sell its controlling interests in baseball's Jays, baseball's Argonauts and the stadium in which they play to a group headed by Toronto developer Murray Frutkin. Interbrew spokesman Alan Chapin refused to say who threatened the deal, but the baseball team is not the prize it once was. The Jays finished last in their division and are expected to lose between \$20 and \$30 million this year.

To reverse those fortunes, Jays president Sara Pollock will have to secure a new network TV contract, and general manager Gord Ash has to build the team into a perennial contender. After trying to sell the team for nearly two years, Chapin said, the uncertainties were "clearly interfering with Sara's and Gordie's abilities to run the club."



Game day at SkyDome: new hope for the Jays

When it acquired the sports franchises in 1995 as part of its \$3.7-billion purchase of John Labatt Ltd., the brewer said it wanted to sell all but a minority interest in the teams and stick up to a local paper. Frutkin and his group were the only serious contenders. And for Interbrew, it seems, they were not serious enough.

Eves, who was accused in some camps of going to pressure from the national trade union to get out of Golden. The union chairman opposes the industry's desire to police itself. Geller announced his resignation on Oct. 20 after learning he had been bypassed for the top job. He also accused Eves of undercutting the OSC by indicating that he would seek the special committee's permission on regulating the mutual fund industry. Eves denied going behind the OSC's back.

## Taming the watchdog

Ontario Finance Minister Ernie Eves scrambled to restore peace at the country's leading securities regulator by coaxing Jack Geller, interim chairman of the Ontario Securities Commission, to remain on board until a permanent replacement is found. He also opposed Geller to a loan-advance committee set up to advise the minister on the selection of a new OSC chairman. The move sparked a rebuff for

## FINANCIAL OUTLOOK

Dylox is in both wholesale and retail trade, slowed the expansion of the Canadian economy in August, lowering the country's gross domestic product unchanged from July. August's lackluster growth followed a sharp 0.8-per-cent rise in GDP from June to July. Overall, the economy is still growing at an annual rate of 4.1 per cent. The number of people receiving employment insurance benefits in August dropped 5.4 per cent from July.

The U.S. economy expanded at an annual rate of 3.5 per cent in the July-to-September quarter, but prices

## ECONOMIC GROWTH

Gross domestic product



over the period rose only 1.4 per cent, their largest decline since the second quarter of 1995. Alan Grounau, chairman of the U.S. Federal Reserve Board, brushed the week's slump down to stocks as

"a military event" that will help keep demand strong and inflation under control. "Just as stock markets can boom while jobs and the real economy lag, so too the real economy can continue to dig deep while stock markets are pulling out their hair."

—Rory Bark

"The last time inflation was this moderate was in mid-1964. If this is what inflation does when the economy is rolling along, imagine what the price index will look like when growth moderates."

—Nashville Sun

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# 'X FOR ESCAPE'

A book on Canada's war heroes features a famous, dramatic tale

*Maclean's was the first publication anywhere to report in detail about what later became known as The Great Escape. As told by Flight Lieutenant Tony Fingleton to Scott Young in the Nov. 1, 1945, issue of the magazine, "X for Escape," excerpted below, is also one of several articles comprising Canada at War, published by Viking. The Canada at War series recounts tales of Canadian heroism from the battlefield of the First World War to paratrooping on the former Yugoslavia. The collection was edited by Michael Bonafant, the magazine's editorial director of new content, and features an introduction by Maj-Gen. Lewis Maclean.*

**D**uring much of my time in prison camp I was part of what I believe must have been one of the war's most efficient escape organizations. That our biggest job ended in tragedy—the barbarous murder of 50 of my friends—I never will forget, and I can only console myself with the knowledge that the escape was planned perfectly and that nothing we left undone cost those lives.

Active participation in the work, and planning for that escape, was the most important thing in my prison camp life. We knew we would have to organize to be successful. We were just beginning to realize that when we were moved, early in 1942, to a new camp in Silesia, between Breslau and Leipzig, Stalag Luft III. Within a few days X (for escape) Organization was born.

At the top was Big X, an RAF squadron leader called Roger Bushell. He had been shot down in June 1940. He was about 30, I'd suppose, and had been a lawyer. Under him directly was the X committee, which was made up of heads of the various departments in the organization. One of the most important of these was Big S, head of the security group, under whom I worked as head of fencers and cartographers. Regardless of rank or seniority every one of the 2,000 men in our compound had an X job. They could be cartographers, fencers, tailors, compass makers, engineers, cooks, technicians, contact men or guards. It took about a year to build our organization up to the point we desired. In that year our talents became skilled in making civilian clothes from coils and cards, our contact men, by a combination of psychology and bribery, got several Germans in the camp working for us, and we assembled a typewriter, radio



and other miscellaneous equipment we needed to forge identification papers for our escapees.

We normally were allowed sewing equipment to repair our own clothing, and with it our tailors could make literally any cut fit needed. A good job might take weeks, but time was our cheapest commodity. Given the time, our tailors could turn out as authentic outfit for anyone from a businessman (jacket only to a chimney sweep (top hat, black overalls).

The papers, turned out under our supervision, matched their clothes. Now had temporary identification cards forged from a type the Germans used for people moving from one area to another. Part of the work could be done on a typewriter, the rest on an approved autograph we had made, using for a roller a piece of heavy handle wrapped with fine rubber from the handle of a cricket bat. A man dressed as a laundry worker would carry these out only on an authentic German letterhead stating he was going to take a job elsewhere.

The preliminary work started in the spring of 1940, and where before we had hope, now we had confidence. Big X and his committee had decided the best place for our main tunnel



to start was Block 104, my home. It was only about 20 feet from the west, halfway between the top guard post and the gate. But we didn't put all our hopes on one project. In March 1943, we started work on three major tunnels, code-named Tom, Dick and Harry. From the beginning, the Block 104 tunnel, Harry, was the one we hoped to use.

It started in a fireplace in the corner of the second room from the northwest corner of the block. When the fireplace and a section of floor were removed there was a drop of about 18 feet, with steps down. Then came a level space of a few feet, and another drop to the bottom of the first well, 27 feet below the surface. From there, digging on a plan drawn by our engineers, the tunnel moved out under the wire toward freedom.

The soil was pure sand, making heavy shoring necessary. Boards to line the tunnel came from our banks, which had 14 1/2-inch bedstead rails. Of these Big X took eight and left six for each man to sleep on.

I cannot explain why the Germans in our power did for us what they did, but if I tell you how we came to influence them only

**tailoring tunnel Harry, planned perfectly, but ending in tragedy**

really perhaps you can understand. It was a psychological approach—simple, because our subjects were not on a high intellectual level. It could begin, as it did with one of our involuntary helpers, with one giving a German a cigarette. A few weeks and several cigarettes later I asked him into my room for tea. I looked at his snapshots with enthusiasm. Two or three months later he told me he was going home. I asked him to my room again for tea.

We talked about his home: how long he was going to get, where he was going, how long it had been since he'd seen his family. Then I asked: "How would you like to take a little coffee home?" The average German hadn't had real coffee since 1896. He jumped at the chance. Then I said: "And a little chocolate for your little boy." Some German children had never had chocolate, so he went for that too.

You know how it is when someone gives you something. The guard wanted to know if there was anything he could bring me from outside. I said: "Yes, if you wouldn't mind, I'd like 100 matches." Anything inconsequential like that would do for the first time. You might never have used a toothpick on your life.

# 'I thought of home, the food, the people, the freedom to open a door and walk down the street'

and never intend to, but it was all for the machine. From then on, each trip I asked for something. In perhaps one month we had beds. His wife had grown to expect the coffee. Her child was looking forward to chocolate every time he went home. He believed he had to take this little booty with him on every leave. Also, he had broken the rules so often that he would hesitate to deny any request for fear he told on him. They never knew where it led until it was too late. And we sold them well in wartime. Europe's best currency—food that Big X commandeered from our Red Cross parcels in any quantity he believed necessary.

Up until this and great escape plan was under way none of us knew how many were to go out in it, or who. When the time became close we drew lots, intensely, in small groups. Mere slips of paper they were, holding the yes or no of freedom—and, for the lucky ones, how long he would be after the first to leave.

I drew No. 55. Then I was faced with a major decision. Scramble in my branch had to stop behind to check identification cards at the tunnel head as the escapees left. There was to be nothing left to chance, no man would leave with papers which didn't justify his drifting or general escape plan. If I took my priority, someone else in my branch would have to stay behind. The few who could handle the job were all anxious to go. Because of my seniority as a prisoner and my major part in the escape organization, I could go if I wished.

I weighed the arguments. I hadn't seen my family in England, for more than three years. I hadn't seen Canada since 1938. I thought of home, the lights, the food, the shows, the people, the freedom to open a door and walk down a street. Against all that was the knowledge that because I had directed production of our escape documents I knew more better than anyone. Perhaps, if I let the job to another, there would be one vital detail only I would know, and I would be gone.

It was the greatest decision of my life as a prisoner of war. There could be only one way. I gave myself the no-postcard, thereby forfeiting my escape number—60—on the list of 375 prisoners we planned to release. When I made my decision, it was early on January of 1944—just a few days away from my 34th birthday, and a couple of months past the third anniversary of the black night I parachuted into enemy hands from a crashing Whitley bomber after the 8th Berlin raid of the war.

Big X was to be Number One on the escape roll, so we would have to reorganize. That was another reason for staying behind—we would need a nucleus of old hands to build up the organization again. But that was for the future. For the present Big X was still running the show.

There were many extreme difficulties in digging the tunnel—engineering without proper instruments, the necessity of stoking or impressing every tool used—but dispersing dirt from Harry was the most difficult physical problem in the entire 12 months of effort. I estimate I took 12 men on dirt dispersal for every man digger at the face of the tunnel. When the dirt reached the tunnel's main well (closest to the tunnel entrance) it was dumped in an auxiliary dispersal well. From there the dispersers—about 300 men working almost 300 to a shift—took over. One system was to step long sausage-like logs (made from greasy tins) to their



Presciently today, I never will forget the hushhush number of 50 at my branch.

camp—there were a few where you couldn't be seen by any of the guards—and dump them there. In both cases the dirt could be kicked around until it mingled with the other soil—fortunately loose and sandy. I cannot estimate how much dirt we moved from Harry during that year, but the tunnel was 455 feet long at its completion, a couple of feet high, and perhaps three feet wide. That is a lot of dirt. When we started work on documents, letters and identification cards for the big escape, there were few people in my unit. I finally had eight working full time in logging and ten on maps, with a total staff of 157. I worked them only an hour or two every day at first, because it was absolutely essential they maintain high interest and accuracy. Intricate detail was necessary. Using the wrong color of ink on one of our forged rubber stamps could have undone a year's work. Rubber stamps can be made quite handy from rubber bands.

On March 1, 1944, Tunnel Harry was finished to the point where our engineers dugged open air was only about three feet away, on how's digging, that we had to wait. There was a full moon then—but escape weather. We waited a night with no moon, a wind (to

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# future still let you sleep in the past?

CAN a building become more original, the more it's improved?

CAN heritage co-exist with technology?

CAN a city become greener, the more it's developed?

CAN the spirit of a city be captured in a cocktail?



PON Fongchi, seated bottom left, at Staling (left), getaway plan of escape tunnel (below). "It was the greatest decision of my life!"

create noise in the woods to cover any we might make) and no snow.

The morning of March 24 was beautiful and sunny. The ground was reasonably clear of snow, and there was an east wind—which we knew from experience usually held pretty well. I was pending the onset (walking toward the wall when one of K's sentries came haring up and told me) was wanted. I had a feeling this was it. Big X had a meeting with the X committee (heads of branches) every morning, and about five days each day it ended. I figured Big X had decided this was the day.

It was "I got my beds together and we started stamping" passed. "Nobody was told except people who had work to do. We couldn't take the chance that someone would show them up. Late that afternoon the word went out. Everyone with an escape number was to be in Block 106 by eight o'clock, lockup time. That was a hazard in itself, because the block ordinarily would have only about 140 people in it. That night there would be 375 as well as those of us who were to direct the show. Although guards never entered the block at lockup, they always looked in the shutters. That meant we had to do a pretty good job of hiding the extra bodies. Nobody could be wandering around the corridors either, because that was unusual and therefore suspicious.

People going into the block did not carry their escape packs with them. Orders had been given to leave the packs in their rooms. Other prisoners had been designated to bring them over after dark. In addition to clothing, these packs included ration kits which had been made up by our cooks. These were K ration first bars from American Red Cross parcels, chocolate, raisins, Ovaltine tablets and a ketchuplike business made from saturated sugar, cocoa, raisins and dried milk. Also there was some bread and meat—the latter mainly garlic sausage, of which very little came into the camp, all of it saved for the escapers. There were Americans in our camp during the last couple of years of the war, and their Red Cross parcels were made up mostly from service rationals. That was handy, because K rationals in particular were built to give the maximum food in the minimum space—and that's the job for an escape.

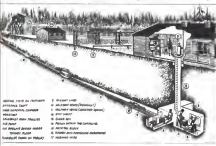
The tunnel was to break about nine o'clock. Diggers were sent down to knock out the last few links. Other men who were to be stationed in the tunnel during the escape went to their posts. In the block, small escape groups gathered. Each had a leader, who wasn't going out. His job was to have the group ready on time. At the top of the tunnel was a timekeeper, to direct traffic.

There was a little more fidgeting to do than we anticipated—about five feet instead of three. So it was after 10 o'clock when the tunnel broke. The diggers hurred back, changed their clothes, and got ready to go. On a word from the timekeeper, at the tunnel head in Room 23, a runner was dispatched along the barracks hall to a group commander with the terse message "Get ready!" The group proceeded to Room 23 to be searched and have equipment and papers checked. Then it began to move through the tunnel. Big X was first man. The escape was on. It was 10:50 p.m.

I had a million things to do. Some people didn't understand their papers, wanted things explained to them. These were signatures missing on some papers. They had to be fixed. Some had the wrong papers altogether, and had to change with others or get new ones.

The tunnel head search was necessary. Every last detail of equipment had to be German. It was almost funny, if things hadn't been so tense, that we found an English milkman on Old Intalville, Big X. We found Gillette blades on others, and old bits of stuff that a German wouldn't carry. It was all corrected, naturally.

The tunnel opened into pine woods on the far side of the road north of the compound. From the mouth of the tunnel a cord stretched through the trees for several hundred feet. A man was stationed at the end of the tunnel. As each escaper reached that point his hand was placed on this cord. He felt his way along it to the end. There he



- 1. Entrance to the compound
- 2. Entrance to the compound
- 3. Entrance to the compound
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- 16. Entrance to the compound
- 17. Entrance to the compound



## "They had been stacked up against a wall and shot out-of-hand. It was a lesson, Gestapo-style."



give. It's a sharp tug, and the next escaper would begin to arrive toward freedom.

The first 50 or 60 men went out without a hitch. The escape was running behind schedule, but everything was going well. There were either 80 or 84 men out (I'm not sure which) when a guard, walking his beat up and down the road under which our tunnel ran, heard a noise. He stopped and looked at the tunnel mouth for a few seconds, then proceeded as if he were satisfied nothing was wrong. But when he came back he left the road and walked through the bushes. He was just in time to grab a man coming out of the tunnel.

Everyone else in the tunnel ran to the other end and scrambled back into the block. But the guard, for some reason, thought the tunnel had just broken. He took our chap to his guardhouse, and reported the escape. A guard was placed immediately on the tunnel mouth. But much to our surprise nobody came into the camp immediately. We were able to burn all our illegal documents.

About seven in the morning dozens of guards, carrying rifles, came into the camp and roared us out. The commandant arrived to call the roll. At first he didn't seem very worried. He couldn't quite understand why people were in the wrong block, but in the first block he took there were only three or four people missing. He thought things weren't very bad. But he got more and more worried as he went on. At the end, when he walked up and found there were more than 80 people out, he almost went mad. In fact, he did go mad as a result of that escape. When he had to report to the Gestapo how many people were loose, they removed him and we later heard he had gone around the bend.

The Gestapo took over the camp for the next several weeks. They were rough, hard men—small, usually a little on the stocky side—real gas-pipe types. They established a first-rate regime of terror among the camp personnel. Interpreters were tried and shot summarily, and camp officers relieved. The Gestapo, perfectly thorough, searched the house at every guard, even if it

**breakfast with officers in  
foreground signalling all  
clear: signs of terror**

was 300 miles away. If anything were found (food, soap, chocolate) to indicate the guard had been dealing with prisoners, it was worth his life. He either would be shot for the high jump immediately or would be sent to the Eastern Front. That was considered the same thing.

About a month later a notice went up on the camp board. It read: "The following officers were shot while trying to re-escape." And gone the master of the 50 chap we had sent into the black woods toward what we hoped was freedom. Other lists came later, and we knew that 50—six Canadians and 44 from other parts of the Empire—had been executed in all violation of every rule of war. We knew the Germans led, because those men of ours knew better than to attempt escapes with armed men standing over them. They had been stacked up against a wall and shot out-of-hand. It was a lesson, Gestapo-style. I believe three of those who got out eventually reached England. Big X was not among them. His name was on the first list.

That was our last escape. Immediately news of the executions reached England; the Air Ministry told us over the BBC—yes, we had radios, smuggled radios—to stop escaping. From then to the end of the war none of us spoke to a German. And from then until our liberation on May 2, 1945, each of us wore on his sleeve a small diamond of mourning black, so that each time a German looked at one of us he would be reminded of what his people had done.

*After being liberated, they promptly returned to Canada where he worked in sales and later in advertising in the Maritime and Toronto. He now lives in Niagara-on-the-Lake, Ont., where he volunteers with the Shaw Festival, pursuing an interest in theatre kindled during his POW days.*

Steve Young, an assistant editor of Maclean's from 1945 to 1948, earlier served with the Royal Canadian Navy in Europe. A longtime columnist with the Toronto Globe and Mail, Young went on to write more than 40 books.



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**T**he rest of Canada may be hunkering down for a long, cold winter, but for those in the fashion industry, spring is in the air. Last week, 16 of the country's top designers and six rising stars got together at the The Multi-Store Fashion Ready-to-Wear in Toronto to strut their spring '98 wares. And when winter coats come off, there is no place to hide—a point illustrated by many of the designers' use of sheer silhouettes and slinky or sheer fabrics. From the form-fitting tube dresses by Saskatoon-born native Crystal Simmons to the sophisticated silk suits by Matsubara, Vancouver-based Fredrick Virens, the designs descended a full figure.

Whether their design philosophy the participants, selected from a jury of their peers, were just glad to be there. Despite huge garment industries in other locales, Toronto is the only North American site outside New York City where prestigious runway shows are held. But the five-year-old event nearly went under until Matsubara, one of the brands of Montreal-based Imperial Tobacco Ltd., stepped forward last January and bailed out the fall '97 collection. Now, the designers are feeling more optimistic. Says Toronto's *Frederick Virens*: "It's been phenomenal—we now have to keep the momentum up."

When these days felt, Royal print by Toronto's Bruce Bailey; collection by Vancouver's Ann Leat; leopard-print gown by Montreal's Susan Chang; slinky



When these days felt, Royal print by Toronto's Bruce Bailey; collection by Vancouver's Ann Leat; leopard-print gown by Montreal's Susan Chang; slinky

## The return of a legend

Canadian Robert Farnon may not be that well-known in his homeland any more, but elsewhere he is regarded as the great, last living composer of light orchestral music. So when Ottawa's National Arts Centre Orchestra announced that it would perform a special three-concert series in honor of Farnon's 60th birthday, friends and fans from as far afield as San Francisco and London made sure they were there. As well as the NAC Orchestra, conducted by Walter Felchler, performers included violinist Juliette Kang, vibraphonist Peter Appeney and jazz singer Donna Krell. Farnon, who traveled to Ottawa from his Guernsey Island home in Britain, declared himself delighted. "I thought they wouldn't re-

member me in Canada, but they're speaking me rather." In the 1940s, the Toronto-born Farnon was one of the original members of the hugely successful CBC Radio program *The Hasty Gander*. His fame grew during the Second World War when he was leader of the Canadian Band of the Allied Expeditionary Forces, working in London alongside U.S. bandleader Glenn Miller and Britain's George Melachrino, an radio broadcasts loved by millions. Farnon stayed on in Britain after the war, writing hundreds of songs over the course of his career, and scores for more than 40 films. Farnon is also widely respected as an arranger for such diverse singers as Vera Lynn, Frank Sinatra and Sarah Vaughan. Although he may have left Canada long ago, Farnon says the country never left him. "So much of my music is inspired by the places I remember."



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LOOK WHO TURNED FORTY!

# Health MONITOR

## Anorexia's victory

An Englishwoman whose struggle with anorexia made her an international tabloid and talk-show celebrity has succumbed to the disease at 30, two years of her also underwent apparently successful treatment at a controversial Victoria, B.C., clinic. Samantha Kendall died of liver failure in Burnaby last week, two days after her mother found her collapsed in the family home. Kendall, a one-time nightclub singer, reportedly relapsed and began starving herself shortly after returning home in 1995 from about 18 months in the Maudsley clinic for eating disorders. She had arrived in Victoria in May, 1994, after a media campaign in Britain raised enough money for three months of treatment, costing between \$300 and \$700 a day depending on the level of care. Kendall weighed just 83 lb. Her twin sister, Melissa, had died of anorexia in 1988. By the time Samantha left the clinic, which treats patients with intensive counseling and emotional support, she had gained about 50 lb. Back in England, she said her celebrity status made her feel like "a freak." She complained: "I can't go out. I'll never get rid of the 'anorexia' label. It's probably the worst." According to a report in *The Birmingham Post*, Kendall seemed to realize she was dying. "She told me she was sorry she was leaving and for all the upset she had caused," her mother said. "I told her not to be daft." The Maudsley clinic, which is run by David Rennie and his wife, Peggy Claude-Pierre, has been criticized for its unorthodox methods and for the qualifications of some of its staff. Claude-Pierre said she was "shocked" by the news of Kendall's death.



Kendall at Maudsley Clinic in 1994; last July "a freak"

## A doctor's mistake

Quebec's College of Physicians admitted that it was not sufficiently diligent in the case of a hospital pathologist who was allowed to go on working while receiving radiation treatment for cancer that affected his memory. Officials of the college held a news conference after a *Montréal* newspaper reported that a woman under went surgery and radiation treatment as a consequence of being incorrectly diagnosed with breast cancer by Dr. Norberto Cardigos. Montreal's *Avant* magazine reported Cardigos in March. *Avant* president Dr. Roch Bernier said that "the situation did not seem as serious as we are now led to believe." A committee is examining 1,300 medical cases handled by Cardigos between January, 1996, and the time of his suspension.

## Undiagnosed risk

Nearly 3.5 million Canadians who suffer from hypertension—high blood pressure—either do not know they have the condition or have received inadequate medical treatment, according to a nationwide health study. In the survey, carried out between 1986 and 1992, more than 23,000 Canadians were screened for high blood pressure, a condition that can lead to stroke, heart attack and kidney failure. Dr. Michel Joffres of Dalhousie University medical school in Halifax, who led the study, said the results indicate that, even among men under 35—who risk less than their elders—more than 250,000 have the condition without realizing it. Joffres said medical organizations need to "do more to make physicians aware of guidelines for assessing and managing hypertension."

## Toxins and cancer

The largest study yet undertaken into the possible link between environmental toxins and breast cancer has found no evidence that the chemicals cause the disease. The U.S. study, published in *The New England Journal of Medicine*, discovered no difference in the traces of toxins in blood samples from 463 women who later developed cancer and the blood of other women who were free of cancer. Researchers looked for evidence of the pesticide DDT and of PCBs, chemicals used in a variety of industrial products. "The overwhelming weight of the evidence now is that exposure to these particular chemicals is not associated with risk of breast cancer," said Hamed Agadomoglu, Dr. David Hunter, who directed the analysis.

## A plea for euthanasia

A Vancouver doctor who specializes in treating the neurodegenerative condition. Amyotrophic lateral sclerosis says Canadian law should be changed to let doctors help its victims and their loved ones in the final stages of the illness. Dr. Andrew Cross, who heads a Vancouver Hospital clinic for treating what is commonly known as Lou Gehrig's disease, said that although he was not prepared to break the existing Canadian law, "I am not opposed to assisted suicide." Cross added that he had seen few patients out of the more than 300 he has treated who actually took their own lives. Cross said that if the law were changed to make assisted suicide legal, he suspected that "more patients would consider the possibility, but probably few would use it," because the knowledge that there was a way out would lessen their fear. Victims of ALS gradually lose control of their muscles while remaining mentally alert.



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## Sports

# The Canadian king

## Jacques Villeneuve seizes Formula One's throne

BY BARRY CAMPE

They sat down together for a quiet beer in the end, once their season-long struggle finally came to a close in a single, spectacular moment at a tight corner called Dry Sack. It was Michael Schumacher who took the initiative, slowing up with his wife on the doorway of Jacques Villeneuve's trailer. By then, the stands were deserted, the paddock still, at the Circuit de Jerez in southern Spain. And that sealed Schumacher's fate. For the strutting German, who drives for Italy's Scuderia Ferrari in the thrilling road show known as Formula One racing, had a difficult task to perform. He had come to acknowledge defeat, so small matter for a proud, even arrogant man who has long been regarded as the sport's reigning monarch, that there is a new new champion in Formula One now. And for the first time in the circuit's colorful history, the king is Canadian.

Villeneuve, an only son, second F1 season, captured the 1997 world driver's championship in the most dramatic fashion, surviving a brutal, seemingly deliberate attempt by Schumacher to force him off the track and out of contention for the title. It happened on two turns of the way through the 10-lap European Grand Prix, staged on Oct. 26 and the dry hills and olive-clad villages of Jerez.

After making Schumacher miss the start, Villeneuve finally won an opportunity to pass on the 68th lap of the race at Dry Sack, a sharp, right-hand turn. The German's scarlet Ferrari took a wide line into the curve and Villeneuve, at the wheel of his Renault-powered Williams, turned up the inside, passing ahead. And suddenly, in full view of an estimated worldwide TV audience of 350 million, Schumacher lurched right, driving his Ferrari into the side of the Williams, forcing Villeneuve's vehicle into the air. "He hit me really, really hard," said Villeneuve after the race. "We banged wheels and our jumpers off the ground. I really felt the crash had broken something."

For Schumacher, it was a disastrous gamble. The German had entered the European Grand Prix, the last of the season's 16 races,



The new champ—Schumacher's gamble backfired

with a one-point lead in the drivers' standings over the 35-year-old from St.-Jean-Richel in Quebec. He needed only to finish the competition in Spain ahead of Villeneuve to secure his third world championship. But when he collided with the Canadian, he drove himself out of the race. After bouncing off Villeneuve's Williams, Schumacher's Ferrari showed sideways into a gravel trap and stuck fast. And as he sat, now wheels spinning helplessly in a cloud of dust, he watched helplessly as Villeneuve bar-

reled down the track on his way to the title. Then then, it was on his way. There were still 25 laps to go and Villeneuve's vehicle had been damaged in the collision. "My car felt very strange," Villeneuve later recalled, "especially in the right-hand corners, and the rear end was not stable at all. I was pushing hard for a few laps, then slowing down because the tires were heating up in a very strange way." Still, Villeneuve arrived his Williams along, gradually losing ground until April, it was met with protest from organizers of the Montreal F1 race as well as officials of IndyCar races in Toronto and Vancouver, who all argued that the annual events were in danger of being cancelled because many racing teams depend on tobacco sponsors for survival.

Canadian motor sport officials argue that less tangible benefits as well. "Villeneuve's victory is certainly going to raise the profile of the sport in this country," predicted Ralph Larue, chairman of the board of governors of the soon-to-be-renamed Canadian Motorsport Hall of Fame in Toronto. Even though the facility, located on the ground floor of downtown Toronto office buildings, will not be officially opened until Nov. 18, Larue reported that a steady stream of curious passers-by have been dropping in since Villeneuve's triumph. "It's sparked so much lot of interest," he said. "And we hope to spark it further by arranging to have one of Villeneuve's awards display in its new home."

Villeneuve, meanwhile, is paired to crash in heavily on his triumph. Craig Pollock, the driver's Swiss-based manager, refused to disclose Villeneuve's annual take, but he is believed to have earned, at salary and endorsements, around \$10 million this year. And Pollock did concede that "Jacques's value has now shot up considerably, particularly in terms of endorsements."

Just as surprising, the Canadian driver's achievement may finally lay to rest many of the doubts that have persisted about him in racing circles, engendered in large part by his dyed blond hair, his penchant for mangled grille damage and, not least, his candor. Villeneuve, in fact, now finds that by his modest persona in many ways that he has all sporting flourishes as a direct result of the race in Spain. It is the well-known Schumacher who has and only become the sport's bad boy. The German driver is a scholar to explain his actions at the Dry Sack corner before an extraordinary meeting of the sport's governing body, the FIA, in Paris on Nov. 11. Schumacher conceded last week that he "made a mistake" while stopping short of an outright apology. "It's part of the game," he said. "But I didn't try to foul." If the FIA decides otherwise, the German would face a multimillion-dollar fine as well as a multiple suspension. While for three races, best season. And if that happens, it is going to be costly.

In the rest of the country, the reaction was more restrained. But Villeneuve's victory did prompt an announcement from the federal government in Ottawa that is likely to have a lasting impact on motor racing in Canada. On the day after the win in Spain, Health Minister Allan Rock announced that he will soon award an anti-smoking law to allow tobacco logos on racing cars and drivers' uniforms. "We'll do that as soon as we can," said Rock, referring to the legislation that restricts, among other items, brand-name tobacco advertising of cultural and sporting events to the bottom 10 percent of sales. When the law was enacted last April, it was met with protest from organizers of the Montreal F1 race as well as officials of IndyCar races in Toronto and Vancouver, who all argued that the annual events were in danger of being cancelled because many racing teams depend on tobacco sponsors for survival.

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# Picture-perfect tales

New Canadian kids' fare delights the eye and ear

The qualities that make for a good book are generally the same whether the work is intended for young children, adolescents or adults. Language that instantly grabs readers or gently draws them in; characters that are quietly believable and delightfully outrageous; a plot that subtly poses as many questions as it answers—all these elements are as necessary for a simple picture book as for adult fiction. And, of course, for kids, eye-catching artwork always helps. In Canada, nearly 400 children's and young-adult books were published last year—a first being celebrated during Children's Book Week, Nov. 1 to 8. The month that most, Maclean's editors and writers select a few of the noteworthy titles.



**The Fishing Summer** (Groundwood, \$15.95) conjures up a vivid portrait of a time in Atlantic Canada that has now mostly disappeared. In language that is simple but never patronizing, the author recounts how an eight-year-old boy comes of age after losing away on his father's fishing boat. The warm presence of an extended family runs like a thread through the narrative, as the child learns how to bait nets, jig for cod—and what to do after hauling into the tidal water. The sea described, painterly illustrations by theatre designer Juge Zhang, capture the action at every turn.

**The Enormous Potato** (Scholastic Press, \$14.95) proves the enormous appeal of fairy tales repackaged for young listeners. The

heroic tale describes how every member of the family—even the transient mouse—is needed to dig up the huge vegetable. Diana Patricia's cartoonish drawings and watercolours offer comic support to Jeremy Devlin's simple but effective words. A delight to read aloud to young listeners, it also works as a read-it-yourself story for beginners.

Barbara Nichol's **Dippers** (Clarica, \$7.95) offers the beguiling tale of eight-year-old Margaret's summer of 1913—the same year that brings an influx of strange fairy creatures to Toronto. Skinnable, with large, leathery wings, they arrive during a heat wave and their appearance coincides with an illness that afflicts Margaret's younger sister Louise. Told as a recollection, Margaret's colloquial voice is so convincing that the fantastical elements she evokes

blend easily with the everyday ordinariness she evokes. Barry Moser's shimmering illustrations perfectly match the tone of the book, with its quiet celebration of the mysterious and the unknown. A highly original tale for children 8 and up.

**The Party** (Scholastic, \$7.95) marks another coup for award-winning plasticist artist Barbara Reid. Her rhyming retelling of a family picnic in honor of Gray's 90th birthday gives a knee-high view of a summer's day that turns both child and parent into its carnival thrill. An under-the-table ballet beneath a spread of deviled eggs, bean salad and green jellied fruit is asging the escapist scenes that last night through to the familiar sleep routine home. A treat for the four-to-eight-year-old.

Robert Munsch and Michael Marichenko score a hit with **Alligator Baby** (Scholastic, \$12.95), another collaboration in which their take-control kids reverse silly parents from implausible situations—this time a couple who have a baby at the end of the hospital. "That is not

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**Give: The Party** (highly convincing silly stories and a child's-eye view of a beach)



## BOOKS

my baby brother," Kristen quite rightly asserts about an affliged, aunt and a puppy each wrapped up in a recurring incident. Leaky blankets and the ladder's sense of logic and Kristen cycles home with the real baby.

More unapologetic silliness comes from Laura Levy's *On the Run* (Annick, \$8.95), a verse story about a bored boy gone trying to score up a little excitement. Levy's, who both writes and illustrates her whimsical tales, shows here the same energetic rhythms and comic expressiveness that made her 1996 *Boy Soap* so popular.

**Franklin's New Friend** (Kids Can Press, \$22.95, paper \$4.95) has just the right note of the earnest, somewhat distant voice of respect and acceptance. With a bit of prodding, Franklin overcomes his fear of a mouse that roamed into the neighborhood, and helps his new buddy join his circle of friends. Paulette Bourgeois's gentle words and Brenda Clark's bright drawings combine without overpowering, while pointed, humorous props tie in the shock of new experience.

Fresh, funny and instructive, **Erik the Viking Sheep** (Scholastic, \$6.95) by Elizabeth Creith is a light-hearted tale about a red Icelandic sheep who carries his imagination while in quarantine, then goes on his kamikaze Canadian cowboy ride with Viking sheep after he is let loose to join them. First kowtow, then a laughingstock, Erik triumphs in the end. Linda Hendry's buffy drawings of looks in Norse helmets add to the story's charm.

In **Jeremiah Learns to Read** (Scholastic, \$16.95), Jo Ellen Bogert's timeless prose is complemented by touching of paintings done by the husband-and-wife team of Laura Fernandez and Rick Jacobson. That the artist pair sits by side on one canvas may have something to do with the warmth and dignity that resides on each page of this role-model classic about a well-loved elderly farmer who joins a child in the local schoolhouse when he decides to learn how to read.

**The Long Road Home** (Futura, \$17.95) is the fourth book by Kenesha artist and storyteller Lisa Goss, who depicts the childhood arrival of veterans with a sadness yet vibrant nostalgia for home after his regaler's journey from Central America to a suitable life for older children, especially those who live in a big city or may have immigrant history in their own families.

**Sunsat in the Circus** (Futura, \$19.95, paper \$6.95) is the 10th in the seasonal preschool series about a little boy's curiously bumpy adventures. The books are written and illustrated by Quebecer Gilles Elia, whose soft, rich watercolor paintings made him this year's Canadian publisher for the international Bore Christian Andersen prize and a French language outsider for the Governor General's Literary Award for his latest *Sunsat* effort. Here, he would be nightmare overcomes obstacles put up by some unruly barnyard friends as he tries to create a circus.

Deliciously creepy-crawly, **Gilbert et le froggaude: A Swamp Story** (Whisper, \$17.95) probably wouldn't work as a bedtime story—more likely to induce giggling (in this case, Swampers Jennifer Rae's) best book, suitable for kids up to 8, tells the mouthably silly story of Gilbert, a frog as fat from gorging on insects that he cannot swim. When two guanoed chels spot his petzard as a plat-

du jour, the fast-talking Gilbert convinces them to try his diet instead. "Carnapack Salade's" choice for something fresh and light, their watch out for Marquise Quack—she's about to scratch all night! Rose Corley's whimsical illustrations complement Rae's text perfectly.

**Little Toby and the Big Hair** (Doubleday, \$16.95) also wins with whimsy, but this book—a collaboration between mother-daughter team Eugénie and Kim Fernandez, appropriate for children between 3 and 8—goes for a sweeter lead of fantasy. Toby, an depicted as Kim Fernandez's essential sculptures made from modelling clay, is a hefty redhead who cowers on grown-ups or grows out her hair. So abundant is her red mane that pappies trouble in it, tangles get tangled in it, and, eventually, a Noah's ark collection of animals have to carry it for her. Toby comely explores the experience of self-expression.

It is difficult to imagine a more enticing story, or more riveting illustration, than those found in *Nagayo's Secret: A Japanese Tale* (Annick, \$13.95). After discovering the haunting legend of the love between the exiled prince and the emperor, artist Anna Martin travelled to Japan to do further research. The result is an exquisite book, suitable for kids who think research is the rule of the day who is discovered in a grove of bamboo by an elderly couple, and who grows up to become a woman possessing extraordinary intelligence, beauty—and a secret. Martin's 35 oil pastels, inspired by traditional Japanese art, are exceptional.

Linda Granfield's **Circus** (Groundwood, \$19.95) is a superb achievement by an author who specializes in raising historical artifacts come alive. Here, aided by illustrations ranging from Roman mosaics to 19th-century woodcuts, Granfield weaves together the strands that formed the classic circus. She notes the excitement caused by exotic animals—the sensational arrival of an elephant in Boston in 1797 included the claim that it daily "killed 30 babies of people" drawing the carnie with its trunk. Granfield also includes a full range of the modern controversy over animal acts.

**Silent Night: The Song from Heaven** (Futura, \$17.95) is classic Granfield again, the third of her excellent seasonal presentations of individual literary works. Having previously tackled the story behind the hymn *Away with Gloom* and John McCrae's famous poem, in *Plainsong*, the author now explores one of the world's best-loved Christmas carols. When a church organ breaks down on Christmas Eve, 1818, in a small Austrian village, the frustrated parish priest and his organist collaborate on a new song. By evening, they had created *Stille Nacht*, now translated into more than 100 languages. Exquisite black-and-gold illustrations in silver-embossed, the cut-paper art popular at the time, by Swiss-Canadian Nelly and Ernst Hölzl, perfectly complement the carol's stark beauty.

Beauty—both, color-saturated (Circus) and barely—(in the most striking quality of *From Hell* (Old Deer College, \$17.95). Alberta painter Murray Kistner creates a visual lyricism in earthy Dylan Thomas's famous poem of last childhood dream. While Kistner's gorgeous brushwork and design sense makes this book a keeper, it seems unlikely that the text will be accessible to most young readers. A present, perhaps, for collectors. □



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## BOOKS

# Artful drawer

An illustrator gives books visual verve

Marie-Louise Gay's latest children's book might not pass muster with revisionists troubled by the tangle of elements of classic fairy tales. But the surprising aspects of *Rumpelstiltskin* didn't stop Gay from illustrating the Brothers Grimm's story about a miller's daughter who strikes a bargain with a mysterious little man who helps her spin gold from straw. "It's such a cruel story," acknowledges Gay, one of Canada's leading children's book illustrators, as well as a writer and mother of two. But the Montreal-based artist thinks the tale is neither too dark nor too irrelevant for children.

She also highlights it with several visual jokes, parodying Rumpelstiltskin as a sunglasses-wearing, toothy-looking character in a striped shirt and a small, round, black hat. Gay, 46, an animated lady with a radiant smile, notes that the story also has a happy ending, with the girl finding her prince even though she

is forced to marry the king who has demanded the gold. "Probably what I find the delectable in that she is still going to be with this king," adds Gay, laughing. The illustrator does believe that too many stories are sanitized for children's consumption. "I just can't understand why kids would want to read them," she says.

Gay's work clearly resonates with kids. She has illustrated more than two dozen English and French books, and in some cases, doubled as the author. Her award-winning illustrations include those for Don Gillman's *The Fabulous Song* and for *Sherry Gay Magic*, which Gay herself wrote. And *Rumpelstiltskin* is a contender for this year's Governor General's Award for distinction in children's literature. Her graphics are

vibrant with humor, energy, detail and color. "There's a tremendous business which appeals to children of all ages because it's so lively," says Jeffrey Cusack, national coordinator for Children's Book Week (Nov. 1 to 8). "Her characters seem to have a facility as they move across the page. It's almost as though they're bigger than the book itself."

Born in Quebec City, Gay didn't begin sketching and doodling until she was 15. Later, she studied graphic design and animation at two Montreal art schools. Once Gay discovered her calling, she says, "you couldn't stop me—I was like a bullfighter." Initially working on cartoon strips and editorial illustrations, she shifted to books after creating the artwork for two French children's stories in the early 1980s. Last week, at the house she shares with husband David Hamel, a writer, and their sons, Gabriel, 14, and Jacob, 10, Gay was working on Giffman's latest book, *The Christmas Dragon*, due next year. She says one of her main concerns is "giving emotional" to characters.

Gay likes to depict children who look like they have just climbed out of the house, excepting a final inspection by their parents. These kids have untidy hair and clothing slightly askew. And they reflect how she sees young people. "They just make me laugh a lot," says Gay. "They always wear funny things and their hair sticks out." Gay says she later realized that some drawings in books she had read as a youngster, with stout, long-haired girls, bothered her. "I used to think, 'Why don't I look like that?'"

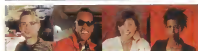
A frequent visitor to schools across the country where she reads her stories, Gay clearly gets a kick out of her young audience. She says they spot the detail that she drops into her illustrations for children who cannot yet read. "They talk to me as if I hadn't written it," says Gay, laughing. "They say things like, 'Did you know that in this book there's a mouse that's playing ball?'"

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# Remembering childhood

The best juvenile novels avoid sentimentality and appeal to adults, too

BY JOHN BEMROSE

They may not be as famous as *Anne* or *Memoirs* or *Kidzies*, but for their loyal (and growing) legions of fans, Canada's authors of fiction for young people are stars in their own right. The best of them—writers such as Kit Pearson, Marilee Brooks and James Thompson—are experts in remembering what many adults have forgot-

ten. When Theo, who is so poor that her shoes are falling apart, is given two new pairs one day, she is so excited she takes both to bed with her. This is a book that never strays far from its poignant awareness of a child's needs.

Another *Goodman General's Award* contender is Calgary teenager Cheryl Poggo's first novel for young readers, *Things That's True* (Kids Can, \$16.95). The

temporally scarce, other writers have turned to history. In *With Me Luck* (Farrar Straus Giroux, \$21.50) Vancouver author James Thompson—yet another GG nominee—draws on his own boyhood in Liverpool to create a riveting story of the city during the Second World War. The book's narrator, Jamie Macnamara, is a working-class boy whose Irish family lives in a Liverpool tenement. Next door is another 13-year-old, the



Pearson, a compelling novel of a rarely but resourceful young girl

teen, what it feels like to be a child. And they not only remember, they offer a vision of hope to young readers—embedded in stories that insistently end happily, or at least with a sense of promise. For young people struggling with loneliness or disappointment or rage—all the usual and unusual difficulties of growing up—such optimism is crucial. At the same time, the best of these books have nothing smarmy or sentimental about them. Everything from family breakups to the death of loved ones can be found on their pages, treated with an artistry—and this may be the definitive test of their quality—that often makes them as appealing to adults as to younger readers.

Among the new offerings flooding into bookstores, one of the most compelling is Vancouver author Kit Pearson's *Anne and Doreen* (Viking, \$19.95). Recently awarded a Governor General's Award, it tells the story of nine-year-old Theo, a Vancouver girl who has taken refuge in a world of bookish daydreams. And no wonder. Her 25-year-old single mother, Rae, is a self-centred kind of woman, who leaves Theo alone for several days in their spare room while she goes gallivanting with her latest boyfriend. Theo wishes she could belong to one of the "real" families, with lots of kids and loving parents, who populate the books she loves. Then, mysteriously, she gets her wish—only to see it fade and leave her lonely there before. In the end, though, her own resourcefulness and some timely help from a ghost show her a way forward.

Pearson—the author of the popular *Girls of the Wall* trilogy—is a flawless voice of de-

light. Theo follows 13-year-old Roseanne as she rides the hazzardous roller-coaster between education and sudden tears. As well, her parents are fighting; her younger brother likes to run away from home; and she is in love with a guy who loves her as if she were his sister. Of such stuff teen fiction is usually made, but what sets Poggo's book apart is Roseanne's droll, weirdly apt narrative style. Trapped at a boring party, she notes with distaste some "very unpleasant guys that looked sort of like those people you see in the news riding other people's cars." Roseanne and her family happen to be black, but that is not a dominant theme in the book. Her dilemmas are every girl's.

While Pearson and Poggo track the con-

temporally tough Teen Reader, the two leads rather enjoy the spectacle of the German bombing, but why? James's house is nearly burned down, his parents decide to send him to safety in Canada. Tom is to be shipped off, too, and so the two boys and themselves on the luxury cruiser, *The City of Benares*—which in actual fact was made in 1890 by a German U boat.

Thompson has created a small masterpiece reminiscent of the jiffy humor of Irish novelist Buddy Doyle. James comments at one point, "Girls were a mystery, like the blessed Trinity, only more interesting." Perhaps only an adult reader could fully appreciate such a line, and while it is certainly a young person's book, *With Me Luck* would not have been

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## BOOKS

out of place in the GGlist for grown-up fiction. Another recent novel is Ontario author Janet Lunn's *The Hidden Tree* (Knopf, \$19.95), which follows the fortunes of 13-year-old Phoebe Olcott during the American Revolution. Loyal to the British Crown, Phoebe endures a long and dangerous trek from her home in New Hampshire to refuge in Canada. Lunn seems captivated by what used to be called "the romance of history": there is something ennobling and glamorous about Phoebe's adventures, even though Lunn has clearly provided her book with meticulous research. The same might be said of Jean La Du's *The Reckoning Place* (Viking, \$19.95). Its heroine and title character, Mary, recalls her Scottish childhood and her emigration to the woods of Canada in the mid-18th century. Little has changed here: she is a good-hearted and cheerful outdoorser in through some weak narrative patches. The early chapters, about the death of Elsie Mary's mother when she was only 4, are particularly moving.

In a different vein, Toronto writer and Gestalt therapist Joan Bodger has created a captivating New Age literary talent *Chever Lay*

Chever, \$8.95). Its frisky heroine, Chever Lay—the name is a lucky coincidence of how incidence and creativity often go hand in hand—is an inventor who has dreamed up such wonders as the abacus and fireworks. When the Emperor of her apocalyptic land wants to torture her (in order to find out the secret of making paper), she and her husband, Thales, flee to the mountains in hopes where she was born. There, they take refuge in the mysterious ruins of a temple once used by worshippers of a great goddess whose religion of harmony with nature and potential co-existence is now outlawed.

Unlike so many synthetic fairy tales with their boring air of wholesale discreditation, this fantastical parable is believable and fun.



Brooks: regarding the confidence to write and sing

## Deft handling of thorny issues

A couple of years ago, when Winnipeg author Martha Brooks was struggling to write her fifth novel for young people, she, like us (Groundwood, \$3.95), she worried about what she calls "the very thorny issue of cultural appropriation: how could I, a white, write about native teenagers?" Brooks consulted a native elder, James Little, about her problem. She was joined a year or so later by Little as a judge called the city. Sitting with up to 20 others, she took her turn holding the eagle feather that was passed among them, and learned to speak candidly about her life. Not only did she find the confidence to go on with *Blaze Games*, but she says she also conquered the fear that had prevented her from pursuing her other passion—singing. Two years later, Brooks joined fellow poets Michelle Gibbons, Po, and now, at 53, enjoys a parallel career choosing jazz tunes and belting in clubs around the city.

The author of books including *Traveling on into the Light* and *Two Moons in August*, Brooks says she began work on *Blaze Games* each day by burning sagegrass and sage, in a ceremony that honored "those many famous people who have gone before us. I felt that some of them were with me while I was writing." Certainly, her deep appreciation of native culture shows in the book. It is the compelling tale of two teenagers, Loring and Aconitides, who discover that the traditional mythology and spirituality of their people can help them with their own growing pains. Brooks brings her two protagonists together in a vivid, slow-motion eruption of

And although it is philosophically a little subtle-headed (goodness dismays again were probably no less bloody than those ruled by gods), *Chever Lay* encourages ideals of loving and living well worth striving for.

Finally, Owen Sound, Ont. author Sadeen Bradford has woven traditional themes of chronic adventure into a compelling contemporary tale, *Dragonfire* (Groundwood, \$12.95). Unlike a boy on the verge of adulthood, however, he is the rightful ruler of the kingdom of Tarn. But Tarn has been taken over by a cruel and disturbing figure called The Userper. The sword fights and encounters with dragons that mark Dain's struggle towards reclaiming his throne are only part of the story. At a deeper level, *Dragonfire* is

powered by Dain's relationship with what Carl Jung called the shadow that defines someone's side of oneself that must be met and embraced if true growth is to occur. Dain's final battle with The Userper is one of the most thrilling encounters with the shadow in children's literature. Chever Lay's therapy, *Dragonfire* offers an unforgettable experience of fantasy. □

young sexuality and spiritual angst. In the end, they undergo a kind of initial initiation into the mysteries of love and maturity.

Somewhat unusually in current teen fiction, both Loring and Alex come from essentially loving families. In fact, most of the adults in their lives are fine, caring people. Brooks says she felt it was important to show this at a time when "too many adults are so obsessed with youth that they can't grow up." Adds Brooks, "They're a lot of fun for young people. You have to see something attractive about the adult world to want to join it."

The author herself grew up on the grounds of a tobaccoless sanatorium in southwestern Manitoba where her father, Dr. Alfred Paine, was medical superintendent and chief surgeon, and her mother, Theodora, worked as a nurse. Though plagued with chronic chest ailments, Brooks enjoyed what she calls a "happy, free-wheeling childhood" exploring the nearby woods and prairie that would one day become the setting for much of her fiction. At 18, Brooks moved to Winnipeg, where she still lives with her husband of 30 years, Brian Brooks, who owns an advertising agency. The couple have a grown child, writer Kristin Brooks, and have been "adopted" as grand parents by two younger native people. Brooks speaks of her writing as almost an extension of her parenting. "It behooves the young-adult fiction writer to deliver a message her readers can act out, when they can get some measure of understanding and hope," she says. "You can do a lot of harm if you don't write with a certain wisdom."

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## Television



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# Cartoon cornucopia

BY NORA UNDERWOOD

Getting up early to watch the Saturday morning cartoons has been a childhood ritual for successive TV generations. In the early days of the tube, a pantheon of animated actors, including Bugs Bunny, Daffy Duck, Wile E. Coyote, Sylvester the Cat and Mighty Mouse, afforded action, yuks and every kind of subversive but safe—durable qualities that ensured that many of those characters still turn up regularly on television. Now, the creation of new specialty channels, such as Teletoon, has meant an exponential leap in the amount of animated fare beaming out from the screen. And much of it has been produced or coproduced by Canadian companies. Two in particular—Montreal-based Cinara and Toronto's Nelvana Ltd.—have built world-class reputations; many others are doing excellent work. Some highlights:

The very youngest viewers will relate to *Critters* (Teletoon, Mon., Wed., Fri., 10 a.m., Tues., Thurs., 1 p.m.), the story of a four-year-old and his adventures with his mother, father and baby sister, Rosie. Based on the

popular French-Canadian children's books of the same title, the Cinara production chronicles such everyday events as a train ride or a visit to the zoo as seen through the wide eyes of an enthusiastic preschooler. The series are emotionally further Callie, with a toddler's big ball head and supple body, wriggles away as his mother applies sunscreen.

And each sequence includes just enough educational material—at the beach, Callie learns about tides and starfish—to satisfy a three- to five-year-old's curiosity without being didactic.

Even if the diminutive *Franklin* books by Frederic Boerger and Brenda Clark will not be disappointed by Nelvana's series about the seven-year-old turtle and his friends (Family Channel, Mon., Fri., 8:30 a.m., Tues., Thurs., 10:30 a.m.). The half-hour shows are faithful in look and content to the original stories, not much on screen appropriate for an audience aged 3 to 7. Whether dealing with fear of the dark, telling fibs, or relationships with

friends, *Franklin* puts a green, friendly face to a wide range of emotions typically experienced by that age group. Bruce Cockburn sings the charming theme song.

Less engaging is Cinara's production of *The Adventures of Paddington Bear* (Teletoon, Mon., Wed., Fri., 1 p.m., Tues., Thurs., 10 a.m.), based on the popular prize series about a well-meaning but dim-witted child who makes attempts to help invariably cause problems. His antics have a low-key slapstick quality that may endear him to some, but simply bore others—even the younger portion of the discerning seven-year-old audience at

## New shows will animate toddlers and preteens

which it is aimed. But perhaps a new generation—one that is not already used to the adventures of this British bear—will find him wholly deserving of affection. And perhaps young viewers won't find the 1960s sit-com-style music so grating either.

Another vintage kids' story that has been given life on television is Nelvana's *Pippi Longstocking* (Teletoon, Mon., 8 p.m.).



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## TELEVISION

Thurs., 7 p.m., Sat., Sun., 11:30 a.m. and 7 p.m.), based on the series of books by Swedish writer Astrid Lindgrén. Pippi is a red-haired, freckled nine-year-old who lives with only her horse and her monkey. The fact that she intimidates bullies, ignores adults, and has great adventures as a result of her loneliness should appeal to kids—mainly four- to 10-year-olds—as much now as it did more than 50 years ago, when the first Pippi book was published.

At first, *Klen the Mudi Unicorn* (Family Channel, Mon.-Fri., 9:30 a.m.) looks about as appealing as those pastel-colored, plastic ponies in which Klen poses a classic resemblance. But on closer inspection, the stories prove to be more sweet than sugary. Klen, a winged unicorn, is put in charge of not-too-safely named Mustangs by a senior unicorn, Tilbot (Dorley Roovers). There, crea-

tures who don't feel they fit in can confront their fears and return home the better. Klen and friends—which include hippo with arched stripes and a tree-dwelling dragon—will appeal to those still open to Harry Potter-like trappings. Parents will probably run for cover.

Several new series will likely snag the attention of older kids—and more than a few parents. Among them is *Nelvana's Secret* (Mon.-Fri., 10:30 a.m., YTV, Thurs., 7 p.m.), based on Steve Porelli's cult comic about a misadventurous

and is always narrowly escaping disaster, but he is a great deal more amusing in his new Garfield-like form.

Another thoroughly modern Neilson production is Ned's Newt (Teletoon, Tues. and Thurs., 4:30 p.m.; Thurs., 8:30 p.m.; Sat. and Sun., 11 a.m. and 3 p.m.), the story of a new 10-year-old boy who buys a sleepy-looking four-toothed newt at a pet shop. When the newt germinates on Zippy Newt food, he is transformed into a fast talking, wisecracking, 500-lb. troublemaker. In his guest form, "Newt" helps Ned learn to solve his problems, revealing a life lesson of his own along the way: Get when he shrinks back to normal-sized size, Ned is usually left as the foil guy. The show is aimed at kids between the ages of 6 and 11, and they will love it for the same reasons they loved *Ashtoe*: the giant newt

and the evil agent who has cursed the process. Teletoon has wisely asked the series, which is co-produced by Ottawa-based Lacewood, into its preschool block early in the day. An older audience might lose patience with the pace of the simple stories and could find both the background music and characters' voices—which sound like English dubs of martial arts movies—amazing.

Despite its terrible theme song, *Crash's Incredible* (Teletoon, Tues., 3 p.m.) is a real winner. The series about King Richard's travels through time and space is high-tech, but stretches the spirit of high adventure and/or of the Sir Walter Scott work on which it is based. And there are plenty of knights in armor and sword fights, as well as a bank of a hero, an evil king and much stunner laughter—perfect ingredients for a kids show.

Two full music programs: *Red Beard* (Teletoon, Tues., 8:30 p.m.; Sat., 6 p.m.), too, but the show—a co-production of Montreal-based MediaToon and a European company, Medvet International—is managed to succeed in spite of it. Like *Ashtoe*, *Red Beard* is aimed at an older audience, so the adventures—at this time, on the high seas—are more complex. And there is a low interest, too: Red Beard's adopted son, Eric, who is trying to regain his aristocratic birthright, is sweet as Camazotz, the perfect girl because she is sweet and beautiful, but she can act like a brute. Two Thelma Houston songs, complete guitar solos, sequences of words and rain, however, add an unnecessary high-tech and, occasionally, jarring look to an otherwise straightforward show.

Of course, there has to be one show that drives parents to distraction. This season's winner of the Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles Award goes to *Dankey Kong Country* (Teletoon, Mon.-Wed., Fri., 4:30 p.m.; Tues., 7:30 p.m.; Sat. and Sun., 9:30 a.m.), a Nintendo production based on a Nintendo video game and aimed at six- to 10-year-olds. Characters with names like Funky, Crasher and Insidius look and move as if they came straight out of a video game. The dialogue rarely rises above such statements as "Whoa, look!" like mad kill now, baby," and most of the story lines are nonsensical. With the echoes of the maddening mutant turtles, *Dankey Kong Country* is like a bad '90s flashback—and the kids will probably love every second of it. ☐

marries from one character to another, doing impressions and generally being silly and amusing—exactly like Robin Williams's *Genie*.

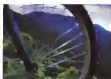
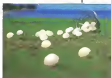
*Cine's Animal Crackers* (Teletoon, Mon., 6 p.m.; Wed., 7 p.m.; Thurs., 9:30 p.m.; Sat. and Sun., 1:30 p.m.) follows the every-day lives of a troupe of good-natured, lucky animals who hang out in the jungle. Like *Lois*, *Eugene* Elphinstone and the others believe a lot like people as they try to impress, be liked and fight with each other. The writing is sharp and the characters are amusing, but as the dialogue consists primarily of one-liners, it threatens to become tiresome.

Most of the new cartoons are like scrappy sitcoms, but a few are evenly paced tales of adventure. One is *Kassal and Luk* (Teletoon, Mon.-Fri., 7:30 a.m.; Sat. and Sun., 6:30 p.m.), a show based on the writings of Senegal, the president of Senegal from 1980 to 1981. It focuses on Luk, Kassal, a young, talkative Princess Marana, who turns into a gazelle during the day, as they journey across Africa in search of Kassal's parents



Scene from *Kassal and Luk*: Having adventure and wading over high-tech Nazism

Playtime



By CYNTHIA L. HARRIS, PH.D., and J. J. L. HARRIS, PH.D., and J. J. L. HARRIS, PH.D.

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# Allan Fotheringham

## Why China will always be in the news

China is much in the news these days. President Jiang Zemin, descending the Tiananmen hillside, gets to schmooze with Bill Clinton in the White House and argue with Harvard students. China's budding new baby, Hong Kong, floats its currency in no more available than that of the United States.

China will always be in the news. Twenty-five years ago, your humble scribbler went to China with then-Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher. Sharp, preparing for Pao's Tiananmen recognition of Red China—before Richard Nixon could do it.

Twenty-five years later, the humble scribbler's No. 1 son, because he is stubborn, has just returned from mountain-biking from Beijing across the top of China, through the Gobi desert, to Pakistan and into Afghanistan. That took two months. With his black beard and Afghan gear, he looks like a terrorist about to rob a bank. Anything to ease up Pops.

Jan Wong, interrupting her studies at McGill, went to China at 19 as a committed Maoist. She is now a reporter for a large corporation, a Canadian newspaper. She says she notices the similarities between China and large Canadian corporations—"the cult of personality, the same secrecy, the same lack of democracy."

No. 1 son's route was the 10,000 km. Road, Marco Polo's path when he found China's riches and later brought back the needles that the Indians used to make paper. The Silk Road is 4,000 m high, passing K2, the second-highest mountain in the world (next to Everest, in the desert, it was so hot that the heat melted the glue on the patches on the bike's tires).

Twenty-five years ago, his father—because he was travelling with 300 Canadian businessmen setting up a truck line in Beijing and thus was at a state banquet every night—told the first food he had ever met. And learned that the Chinese missed the French as well, processing appetizers who have stolen the sauces and other ingredients from their Oriental masters and are coming along rather well. The Chinese have seen everything and nothing bothers them, not even Tiananmen Square.



Jan Wong came from a well-to-do family in Montreal, where they owned several restaurants. Other kids in the family went to private school. She became a Maoist. She remembers at McGill going out to demonstrations because the posters were on strike.

Close to China, home of her Communist friends, she got a taste of a presidential drill operator. She says she remembered this day-god in the places in the Democratic camp. She believes to this day that there was some point in the Cultural Revolution that forced bright university students into the fields to work with peasants. "At least it taught them that they didn't want to end up as peasants."

When she came back to McGill to graduate, they gave her "a year's credit for gap training." All the other 12 foreign students became academics or diplomats. She became the only journalist, the school finally falling from her eyes when Mao's own wife was purged after his death.

Jan Wong's grandfather came to Canada in 1886 to work on the ribbon of steel that bound Canada together. Twenty-five years ago, a few of us took the steam train from Beijing to Hong Kong. It was the distance from Vancouver to Winnipeg. The train was right out of *The Last Spike*. Such was the heat that the windows had to be kept open. Such was the heat that that by the third day we all looked like Al Jolson singing *Milk and Honey*.

Never since, day or night, were there not people visible out the window, leading proof in the claim that from birth to death the Chinese are never out of the sight of another person. At every stop, old wooden basins were filled with water and jaw fish would be brought aboard. On the fly, they were killed with a dead hand, the food was superb.

Jan Wong in 1986 was sent back to China by the large Canadian corporation that is a newspaper. She stayed six years. She found to her astonishment that there now were party boys and even postmodernists. She had earlier found a husband in China—"I couldn't find a Chinese one, there were only a billion people." "The only American drill doctor who went to China, to treat the Vietnam War."

She is 45. She has a couple of kids. Her book, *Red China Blues*, was deemed by Time magazine the real thing, not the fake. She was elected to be the first best collection book of the year.

President Jiang, definitely overlooking Clinton in that White House encounter, did the usual Beijing thing of downplaying the number of dead in Tiananmen Square, a figure that to this day is unknown but Jan Wong says will eventually come out because the Chinese are not as stupid as they look.

From her own court, because she was on her hotel balcony listening to the gunshots, and because she and all the other foreign correspondents co-ordinated their sightings, somewhere between 2,800 and 3,000 bodies were carried off.

She thinks the Communist party may collapse as fast, so soon, it will be "a blip in Chinese history." China will always be in the news.



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